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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE
OF
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
OF CANADA, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
AT
ESPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS
HELD AT
*Chesley, 4th August, A.L. 5896, Gananoque,
24th August, A.L. 5896, and Brant-
ford, 21st July, A. L. 5897,*
ALSO AT THE
FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
HELD AT THE CITY OF BRANTFORD,
ON THE
21st and 22nd July, A. D. 1897, A. L. 5897



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1897.

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PROCEEDINGS

At an Especial Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, held in the Masonic Hall, in the Village of Chesley, on Tuesday, the 4th day of August, A. D. 1896, A. L. 5896.

PRESENT :

- M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, M.P., Beamsville.. Grand Master.
R. W. Bro. J. S. Tennant, Lucknow.....as Deputy Grand Master.
R. W. Bro. Robt. McKnight, Owen Sound, as Grand Senior Warden.
R. W. Bro. Geo. Inglis, Owen Sound.....as Grand Junior Warden.
Bro. Rev. G. M. Franklin, Lucknow, as Grand Chaplain.
R. W. Bro. R. C. Bruce, Tara.....as Grand Treasurer.
W. Bro. Geo. Landerkin, Hanover.....as Grand Registrar.
R. W. Bro. James Walmsley, Wiarton....as Grand Secretary.
W. Bro. T. A. Simpson, Beamsville...as Grand Senior Deacon.
W. Bro. C. J. Mickle Chesley.....as Grand Junior Deacon.
W. Bro. W. Forster, Hamilton.....as Grand Supt. of Works.
W. Bro. J. M. Stewart, Chesley.....as Grand Dir. of Cer.
W. Bro. J. W. McKinney, Wiarton....as Asst. Grand Secretary.
W. Bro. D. F. Fisher, Chesley.....as Asst. Grand Dir. of Cer.
W. Bro. A. S. Goodeve, Chesley.....as Grand Sword Bearer.
W. Bro. Wm. Halladay, Chesley.....as Grand Organist.
V. W. Bro. A. McDonald, Tara.....as Grand Pursuivant.
W. Bro. F. Benton, Hanover.....
W. Bro. J. H. Adolph, Chesley.....
W. Bro. Jos. Adams, Chesley.....
Bro. T. J. McNally, Tara.....
Bro. A. McArthur, Owen Sound.. } as Grand Stewards.
Bro. Henry Hayes, Chesley.....as Grand Tyler.

Together with Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Brethren hailing from various lodges.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented, the Grand Lodge was opened in *ample form*, at 1.30 o'clock p. m., in the Masonic Hall, by the M. W. the Grand Master, who announced that this special communication of Grand Lodge had been called for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of "Holy Trinity" Church (Anglican.)

The brethren acting as Grand Lodge officers having received the necessary directions, the Grand Lodge was called off, and a procession formed, under the direction of W. Bro. J. M. Stewart, as acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, and marched

to the site in prescribed order, taking their proper positions at the north-east corner of the building.

The acting Grand Chaplain then asked a blessing, and the acting Grand Superintendent of Works read the following scroll :

**In the Name and by the Favor of the Great Architect
of the Universe,**

On the Fourth Day of August, A. D. One Thousand Eight Hundred
and Ninety-six, A. L. Five Thousand Eight Hundred and
Ninety-six, the Sixtieth year of Our Gracious Sovereign

Victoria,

Queen of Great Britian and Ireland and the Dependencies in Asia,
Europe, Africa, Australia, Dominion of Canada, etc.,

His Excellency the RIGHT HONORABLE JOHN CAMPBELL
HAMILTON GORDON, Earl of Aberdeen,
Being Governor General of Canada,

Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. G. A. KIRKPATRICK, being Lieutenant
Governor of the Province of Ontario,

The Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER, being Premier of the
Dominion of Canada,

The Hon. ARTHUR S. HARDY, being Premier of the Province of
Ontario,

The Hon. E. J. DAVIS being Provincial Secretary,

M. W. Bro. WM. GIBSON, M. P., being Grand Master of the Grand
Lodge of Canada, A. F. & A. M., in the Province of Ontario,

R. W. Bro. J. S. TENNANT, D. D. G. M. of the 5th Masonic District,

This Corner Stone

OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

was laid by M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, M. P., Grand Master of the
Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, assisted by the Grand
Officers and in presence of a large concourse of brethren and
citizens, with the usual ceremonies of the Order.

The acting Grand Treasurer then deposited the scroll in the cavity in the stone, together with a box containing the scroll and certain newspapers and records.

A beautiful silver trowel, suitably inscribed, was presented to the M. W. the Grand Master, by the Rev. J. Carlton McCracken, Incumbent of the Church.

The Grand Wardens and the Deputy Grand Master applied the implements of their offices to the stone, after it had been placed in position, and announced that the craftsmen had done their duty.

The M. W. the Grand Master then consecrated the stone with CORN, WINE AND OIL, and pronounced it :

WELL MADE, TRULY LAID, WELL PROVED, TRUE AND TRUSTY.

The procession was then reformed, the brethren returned to the Masonic Hall, and Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE FORM.

ATTEST :



J. J. Maxon

Grand Secretary.

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PROCEEDINGS

At at Especial Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, held in the Masonic Hall, in the Town of Gananoque, on Monday, the 24th August, A. D. 1896, A. L. 5896.

PRESENT :

M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, M. P.....	Grand Master.
R. W. Bro. G. A. Aylsworth.....	as Deputy Grand Master.
V. W. Bro. John Sutherland	as Grand Senior Warden.
W. Bro. G. E. Fales	as Grand Junior Warden.
Bro. Rev. W. Jackson, D. D.....	as Grand Chaplain.
W. Bro. W. G. Hinds	as Grand Treasurer.
R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason	Grand Secretary.
W. Bro. Jas. Hayward	as Grand Senior Deacon.
W. Bro. W. T. Minnis	as Grand Junior Deacon.
W. Bro. J. C. Ross.....	as Grand Supt. of Works.
V. W. Bro. J. Ormiston	as Grand Director of Cer.
W. Bro. W. McKenzie.....	as Grand Sword Bearer.
Bro. W. B. Carroll	as Grand Pursuivant.
Bro. C. W. Summer.....	} as Grand Stewards.
Bro. Jos. Fortescue.....	
Bro. John Kee	
Bro. S. C. Skinner.....	
Bro. W. McKenzie	
Bro. S. McCammon	} as Grand Stewards.
Bro. Jas. McKellar	
	as Grand Tyler.

Together with Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and brethren hailing from various lodges.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented Grand Lodge was opened in *ample form*, at 2 o'clock p. m., in the Masonic Hall, by the M. W. the Grand Master, who announced that this special communication of Grand Lodge was called for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of Grace Church (Methodist).

The brethren acting as Grand Lodge officers having received the necessary directions, the Grand Lodge was called off, and a procession formed, under the direction of V. W. Bro. J. Ormiston, as acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, and marched to the site in prescribed order, taking their proper positions at the north-east corner of the building.

The acting Grand Chaplain asked a blessing and the following scroll was read :

**In the Name and by the Favor of the Great Architect
of the Universe,**

On the 24th day of August, A. D. 1896, A. L. 5896, in the 60th year
of the reign of our Gracious Sovereign

Victoria,

Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Dependencies
in Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, Dominion of Canada, etc.,

His Excellency the RIGHT HONORABLE JOHN CAMPBELL
HAMILTON GORDON, Earl of Aberdeen,
being Governor General of Canada,

Hon. GEORGE A. KIRKPATRICK, being Lieutenant Governor
of the Province of Ontario,

Hon. WILFRED LAURIER, being Premier of the Dominion of
Canada,

Hon. ARTHUR S. HARDY, being Premier of the Province of
Ontario,

Rev. A. CARMAN, being General Superintendent of the Methodist
Church of Canada,

Rev. J. T. PITCHER, being President of the Montreal
Conference,

Rev. Bro. W. JACKSON, D. D., being Pastor of Grace Methodist
Church,

Bro. JOHN B. McMURCHY, being Mayor of the Town of
Gananoque,

M. W. Bro. WILLIAM GIBSON, M. P., Grand Master of the
Grand Lodge of Canada, A. F. & A. M., in the
Province of Ontario,

R. W. Bro. GEORGE A. AYLESWORTH, D. D. G. M. of the
14th Masonic District,

This Corner Stone

OF GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

was laid by M. W. Bro. William Gibson, M. P., Grand Master,
assisted by Leeds Lodge, No. 201, G. R. C., of which Wor.

Bro. W. G. Hinds is W. M., and in the presence of
a large concourse of brethren and inhabitants
of the Town of Gananoque.

The acting Grand Treasurer then deposited the scroll in the
cavity in the stone, together with a box containing Canadian
coins and certain newspapers and records.

A beautiful silver trowel, suitably inscribed, was presented
to the Grand Master by the Pastor of the Church.

The Grand Wardens and the Deputy Grand Master applied the implements of their offices to the stone, after it had been placed in position, and announced that the Craftsmen had done their duty.

The M. W. the Grand Master then consecrated the stone with CORN, WINE AND OIL, and pronounced it

WELL MADE, TRULY LAID, WELL PROVED, TRUE AND TRUSTY.

The procession was then reformed, the brethren returned to the Masonic hall, and the Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE FORM.

ATTEST:



J. J. Maxon

Grand Secretary.

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PROCEEDINGS

At an Especial Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M., of Canada, held in the Opera House, in the City of Brantford, on Wednesday, 21st July, A. D. 1897, A. L. 5897.

PRESENT :

- M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, M.P., Beamsville, Grand Master.
M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, Montreal.... Past Grand Master.
M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Toronto Past Grand Master.
M. W. Bro. Hy. Robertson, Collingwood... Past Grand Master.
M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem, Kingston Past Grand Master.
M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, Toronto... Past Grand Master.
M. W. Bro. W. R. White, Pembroke..... Past Grand Master.
R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, Toronto Deputy Grand Master.
R. W. Bro. A. McGinnis, Belleville..... Grand Senior Warden.
R. W. Bro. A. B. Greer, London Grand Junior Warden.
R. W. Bro. Rev. W T. Wilkins, Trenton... Grand Chaplain.
M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, Hamilton..... Grand Treasurer.
R. W. Bro. John Hetherington, Toronto... Grand Registrar.
R. W. Bro. R. L. Gunn, Hamilton..... as Grand Secretary.
V. W. Bro. W. H. Adams, Belleville..... Grand Senior Deacon.
R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon, Toronto as Grand Junior Deacon.
R. W. Bro. Gavin Stewart, Woodstock... as Grand Supt. of Works.
V. W. Bro. Hugh Hyndman, Palmerston as Grand Dir. of Cer.
V. W. Bro. G. H. Cooper, Grand Valley... Assistant Grand Sec.
V. W. Bro. Wm. Clarke, York Asst. Grand Dir. of Cer.
V. W. Bro. C. F. Mansell, Cornwall..... as Grand Sword Bearer.
V. W. Bro. R. W. Kenning, Pembroke... as Grand Organist.
V. W. Bro. Wm. Ballantyne, Seaforth... as Asst. Grand Organist.
V. W. Bro. Wm. Bishop, Owen Sound.... Grand Pursuivant.
V. W. Bro. Peter Toll, London East..... Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. M. McD. Fleming, Listowel... Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. Jas. Stewart, Ancaster Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. Richard Mills, Bracebridge... Grand Steward.
W. Bro. Harry Days, Lucknow as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. Wm. Birrell, Hamilton as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. T. M. Davis, Hamilton..... as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. C. E. Dunk, Campbellford... as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. W. M. Connor, Cayuga..... as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. J. Bingle, Caledonia as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. J. A. Consaul, Frankfort... as Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. Jas. Old, jr., Caledonia..... as Grand Standard Bearer.
W. Bro. David Thomson, Cayuga... as Grand Standard Bearer.
Bro. T. McGarrell, Brantford... as Grand Tyler.

Together with a large number of Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Brethren hailing from various lodges.

A constitutional number of lodges being represented, the Grand Lodge was opened in *ample form*, at 11.30 o'clock a. m., in the Opera House by the M. W. the Grand Master, who announced that this special communication of Grand Lodge had been called for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new Victoria School Building.

The brethren acting as Grand Lodge officers having received the necessary directions, the Grand Lodge was called off, and a procession formed, under the direction of the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, and marched, headed by the C. O. F. & C. Band, to the site in prescribed order, taking their proper positions at the north-east corner of the building.

The Grand Chaplain then asked a blessing and the acting Grand Superintendent of Works read the following scroll :

**In the Name and by the Favor of the Great Architect
of the Universe,**

On the twenty-first day of July, A. D. One Thousand Eight Hundred
and Ninety-seven, A. L. Five Thousand Eight Hundred and
Ninety-seven, the Sixty first year of the reign of
the reign of Our Gracious Sovereign

Victoria,

Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India and Dependencies in Asia, Europe, Africa, Dominion of Canada, etc.,

The Right Honorable SIR JOHN CAMPBELL HAMILTON
GORDON, Earl of Aberdeen, being
Governor-General of Canada,

The Hon. Sir GEORGE AIREY KIRKPATRICK being Lieutenant
Governor of the Province of Ontario,

The Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER being Premier of the
Dominion of Canada,

The Hon. ARTHUR STURGIS HARDY being Premier of the
Province of Ontario,

The Hon. GEORGE W. ROSS being Minister of Education,
THOMAS ELLIOTT, Esq., being Mayor of the City of Brantford,
M. W. Bro. WILLIAM GIBSON being Grand Master of the Grand
Lodge of Canada, A. F. and A. M. in the Province of Ontario,
R. W. Bro. JAMES G. LIDDELL being D. D. G. M. of the Eighth
Hamilton Masonic District,

This Corner Stone

OF THE VICTORIA SCHOOL, BRANTFORD,

was laid by M. W. Bro. William Gibson, Grand Master, assisted by
the Grand Officers, and in presence of a large concourse of
brethren and citizens of the City of Brantford
and County of Brant,

Wm. Watt, Jr., B. A., LL. B., Sheriff of the County of Brant, being Chairman of the Public School Board; John F. McLaren, Henry Butterworth, Edward P. Park, Joseph Bowes, J. J. Inglis, William Wilson, Charles H. Hartman, John A. Leitch, and James C. Spence being trustees; M. J. Kelly, M. D., LL. B., being Inspector of Public Schools; William Wilkinson, M. A., being Principal of the Public Schools; and Arthur K. Bunnell, Secretary-Treasurer; the Building Committee of the School being John F. McLaren, Chairman and Messrs. Spence, Bowes, Inglis and Wilson; Beaumont Jarvis, of Toronto, the architect, and Schultz Bros., of Brantford, the contractors.

The Grand Treasurer then deposited the scroll in the cavity in the stone, together with a box containing minutes and proceedings of municipal corporation of county of Brant, 1896; report of the Minister of Education, 1896; by-laws of Public school board, Brantford; hand book of Public school board, Brantford; financial statement city of Brantford, 1896; by-laws of Board of Trade of the city of Brantford; annual calendar of the Brantford Young Ladies' college, 1897; twenty-fifth annual report of the Ontario Institute for the Education of the Blind, 1896; programme of oratorio of the "Messiah," presented June 23, 1897, by the Brantford Musical Society; Canadian almanac, 1897; report of Brant County Sabbath School Association, 1896; patriotic songs sung by pupils of the Brantford Public and Separate schools on Jubilee Day, 1897; illustrated number of Daily Expositor, Christmas, 1838; Jubilee number of Toronto Globe, 1897; board of trustees of Collegiate Institute, 1897; names of scholars attending North ward school, June 30, 1897; copies of Mail and Empire, Globe, Courier, Expositor, July 20, 1897; photographs of the Queen, Mayor, President, Board of Trade, Chairman Collegiate Institute Board; George Schultz, contractor, etc., several young kindergartners and young pupils attending North ward school, various coins of the realm and Jubilee stamps.

A beautiful silver trowel was presented by V. W. Bro. W. Watt, Chairman of the Public School Board, to the M. W. the Grand Master, and upon it the following inscription was engraved:

Presented to
M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of A. F. & A. M.,
of Canada, in the Province of Ontario,
by the
Brantford Public School Board on the occasion of his laying the
corner stone of the Victoria School, Brantford,
July 21st, 1897, A. L. 5987.

In presenting the trowel, V. W. Bro. Watt made the following address:

To the M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Brantford Public Schools I welcome you and the fraternity of Masons to lay, with the time honored forms and ceremonies of the craft, the corner stone of this Victoria school, one of the public schools of the city. The name is appropriately bestowed in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty, which has been so fittingly and so sincerely celebrated in every part of the empire, and hailed with such cordial sympathy and recognition by all the civilized nations of the earth. The glories of the reign, the progress and expanse of the empire during these sixty years have been so fully and so recently rehearsed as to need no further reference on this occasion. It has justly been called the golden era of colonial enterprise, of national enlightenment and of civil and religious liberty. And in the educational field more especially, the advance and expansion have been marvellous, while the aspirations and labors of those who have devoted their lives to the cause, have been prolific of grand and beneficent results.

When the Queen came to the throne there was no such thing as education for the masses in the present sense of the term. It has been the growth and development of the age—a development, indeed, in which our own fair province of Ontario occupies no secondary position. It extends to every child within its confines, the benefits of a free education, an education which moulds the mind and develops the physical powers and intellectual faculties of the young to the making of worthy and self-respecting men and women. And in this Jubilee year, the wealth, the standing and the intelligence of the people of this province and Dominion attest the solidity and superiority of our educational system, as evolved by those who were its noble and honored sponsors in days gone by.

Most Worshipful Sir, the school, of which you now lay the corner stone, takes the place of one erected in 1854, and which has well served its day and generation. This section of the city has outgrown its school facilities, and while the present modern ten-roomed structure in course of erection will more amply meet the requirements, we confidently hope that within its wall much gratifying work may be done in directing and insructing the tender mind in the paths of truth and knowledge.

Brantford, we are happy to say, has always occupied a leading place in the ranks of modern education. The people have

ever been generous in the cause of their public schools: while our Collegiate Institute, Young Ladies' College and Provincial Institution for the Education of the Blind have each had a useful and prosperous career, and have mutually assisted each other in the encouragement and furtherance of the cause of education. Nearly three thousand young people are housed in the schools and colleges of the city and a useful and noble work is being done in their interest; and when the copestone of this building has been placed in position and it is dedicated to the uses for which it is erected, we hope it may be but the beginning of a long and useful career, and that the instruction therein inculcated may prove a blessing to the young of this portion of the city for many years to come.

We appreciate your presence and feel honored in your acceding to our request, and trust that while you are with us and while holding your annual communication, your visit may be both profitable and enjoyable.

The M. W. the Grand Master having made suitable acknowledgment of the presentation and address, the Grand Wardens and the Deputy Grand Master applied the implements of their offices to the stone, after it had been placed in position, and announced that the Craftsmen had done their duty.

The R. W. the acting Grand Master then consecrated the stone with CORN, WINE AND OIL, and pronounced it

WELL MADE, TRULY LAID, WELL PROVED, TRUE AND TRUSTY.

After the ceremony an address was delivered by the M. W. the Grand Master. The procession was then reformed, the brethren returned to the Opera House, and Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE FORM.

ATTEST:



J. J. Maxon

Grand Secretary.

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PROCEEDINGS

At the Forty-second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario, held in the City of Brantford, commencing on Wednesday, the 21st day of July, A. D. 1997, A. L. 5897.

PRESENT :

THE GRAND MASTER,

M. W. Bro. William Gibson, M. P., on the Throne.

THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone.

- R. W. Bro. A. McGinnis, Belleville.....Grand Senior Warden.
R. W. Bro. A. B. Greer, London.Grand Junior Warden.
R. W. Bro. Rev. W. T. Wilkins, Trenton...Grand Chaplain.
M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, Hamilton.....Grand Treasurer.
R. W. Bro. John Hetherington, Toronto...Grand Registrar.
R. W. Bro. R. L. Gunn, Hamilton.....as Grand Secretary.
V. W. Bro. W. H. Adams, Belleville.....Grand Senior Deacon .
R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon, Toronto.....as Grand Junior Deacon .
R. W. Bro. Gavin Stewart, Woodstock...as Grand Supt. of Works.
V. W. Bro. Hugh Hyndman, Palmerston,as Grand Dir. of Cer.
V. W. Bro. G. H. Cooper, Grand Valley...Asst. Grand Secretary.
V. W. Bro. Wm. Clarke, YorkAsst. Grand Dir. of Cer.
V. W. Bro. C. F. Mansell, Cornwall....as Grand Sword Bearer.
V. W. Bro. R. W. Kenning, Pembroke..as Grand Organist.
V. W. Bro. Wm. Ballantyne, Seaforth, as Asst. Grand Organist.
V. W. Bro. Wm. Bishop, Owen Sound....Grand Pursuivant.
V. W. Bro. Peter Toll, London East.....Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. M. McD. Fleming, Listowel...Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. Jas. Stewart, Ancaster.....Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. Richard Mills, Bracebridge...Grand Steward.
W. Bro. Harry Days, Lacknow.....as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. Wm. Birrell, Hamiltonas Grand Steward.
W. Bro. T. M. Davis, Hamiltonas Grand Steward.
W. Bro. C. E. Dunk, Campbellford...as Grand Steward.
W. Bro. W. M. Connor, Cayugaas Grand Steward.
W. Bro. J. Bingle, Caledoniaas Grand Steward.
W. Bro. J. A. Consaul, Frankfort...as Grand Steward.
V. W. Bro. Jas. Old, jr., Caledonia.....as Grand Standard Bearer.
W. Bro. David Thomson, Cayuga...as Grand Standard Bearer.
Bro. T. McGarrell, Brantford...as Grand Tyler.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

R. W. Bro. W. R. Hickey	Erie District.....	No. 1
R. W. Bro. B. F. George.....	St. Clair District.....	" 2
R. W. Bro. A. B. Greer	London District.....	" 3
R. W. Bro. John W. Shaw, M. D	South Huron District. "	4
R. W. Bro. J. S. Tennant, M. D	North Huron District. "	5
R. W. Bro. Thos. Allshire.....	Wilson District	" 6
R. W. Bro. J. G. Liddell	Hamilton District....	" 8
R. W. Bro. Robert McKnight	Georgian District.....	" 9
R. W. Bro. Samuel Amsden.....	Niagara District	" 10
R. W. Bro. Aubrey White.....	Toronto District	" 11
R. W. Bro. Andrew M. Ross.....	Ontario District	" 12
R. W. Bro. Henry Pringle	Prince Edward Dist ..	" 13
R. W. Bro. Geo. A. Aylesworth	Frontenac District ...	" 14
R. W. Bro. D. A. Macdonell.....	St. Lawrence District. "	15
R. W. Bro. E. D. Parlow	Ottawa District.....	" 16
R. W. Bro. John H. Knifton	Nipissing District....	" 18

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

FROM GRAND LODGE OF

M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson	England.
R. W. Bro. Hugh A. Mackay	Scotland.
R. W. Bro. John Creasor, Q. C.....	British Columbia.
R. W. Bro. Robt. McKnight	Prince Edward Island.
R. W. Bro. L. Secord, M. D.....	New Zealand.
R. W. Bro. J. H. Burritt	South Australia.
M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, M. P.....	Victoria.
R. W. Bro. G. H. F. Dartnell	Alabama.
R. W. Bro. J. C. Hegler.....	Arkansas.
V. W. Bro. G. S. Ryerson, M. D.....	California.
R. W. Bro. Arthur McGinnis	Colorado.
M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson.....	Connecticut.
M. W. Bro. Henry Robertson, Q. C.....	District of Columbia.
M. W. Bro. W. R. White, Q. C.....	Georgia.
R. W. Bro. George C. Davis.....	Illinois.
M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Q. C.....	Indiana.
R. W. Bro. W. G. Reid	Kansas.
R. W. Bro. D. F. Macwatt.....	Louisiana.
R. W. Bro. R. B. Hungerford.....	Michigan.
M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson.....	Minnesota.
M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Q. C.. ..	Missouri.
M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Q. C.....	New Jersey.
M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray.....	New York.
R. W. Bro. J. S. Dewar.....	North Dakota.
R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone.....	South Dakota.
R. W. Bro. A. B. Munson	Tennessee.
M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Q. C.....	Texas.
M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Q. C.....	Utah.
R. W. Bro. Dewitt H. Martyn, M. D.....	Vermont.
R. W. Bro. W. C. Wilkinson.....	Washington.
R. W. Bro. J. E. Harding, Q. C.....	West Virginia.
R. W. Bro. Thos. Sargant	Wisconsin.
M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson	Brazil.
M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem, Q. C.....	Peru.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

PAST GRAND MASTERS.—M. W. Bros. A. A. Stevenson, J. K. Kerr, Q. C., Hugh Murray, Hy. Robertson, Q. C., R. T. Walkem, Q. C., J. Ross Robertson and Hon. J. M. Gibson.

- PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.—R. W. Bros. G. J. Bennett, R. L. Gunn, A. B. Munson, J. B. Nixon, J. C. Hegler, D. H. Martyn, T. Sargent, W. T. Toner, D. F. Macwatt, J. H. Burritt, J. E. Harding, John Sinclair, R. B. Hungerford, Wm. Rea, W. D. Hepburn, H. A. Collins, A. B. Hurrell, W. R. Howse, T. McCallum, John Boyd G. H. Dartnell, R. Mahoney, A. B. Jardine, Gavin Stewart, E. G. Wells, W. G. Reid, John Malloy, G. C. Holden, A. McCurdy, W. F. Miles, G. W. Holwell, F. C. Heath, J. Scoon, T. P. Smith, C. Pye, J. C. Bartle, D. Robertson, John Creasor, W. Roaf, W. Jacques, J. A. Macfadden, W. Kennedy, John Simpson, James Walmsley, A. H. Clarke, G. J. Fraser, H. McK. Wilson, A. Hess, Jas. S. Dewar, E. S. Wigle, R. E. Wood and N. B. Sanders.
- PAST GRAND SENIOR WARDENS.—R. W. Bros. Thos. Lester, Jas. Sutherland, G. R. Vanzant, Jas. McLauchlan, A. W. Porte, B. Allen and Allan McLean.
- PAST GRAND JUNIOR WARDENS.—R. W. Bros. R. W. Kenning, Geo. C. Davis, Hugh Walker, J. B. Rankin, Geo. Inglis and J. S. Dewar.
- PAST GRAND CHAPLAIN.—R. W. Bro. Rev. J. W. Hodgins.
- PAST GRAND REGISTRARS.—R. W. Bros. W. C. Wilkinson, F. C. Martin, H. A. MacKay, T. R. Barton and G. C. Patterson.
- PAST GRAND SENIOR DEACONS.—V. W. Bros. G. S. Ryerson, Thos. Beattie, and A. A. S. Ardagh.
- PAST GRAND SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS.—V. W. Bro. C. F. Mansell.
- PAST GRAND DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES.—V. W. Bros. W. Watt, jr., S. Wesley, Wm. Ballantyne, and H. M. Wright.
- PAST ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY.—V. W. Bro. R. E. Gallagher.
- PAST ASSISTANT GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES.—V. W. Bro. H. Hyndman.
- PAST GRAND SWORD BEARERS.—V. W. Bros. C. V. Emory, J. D. Allan, and James Evans.
- PAST ASSISTANT GRAND ORGANISTS.—V. W. Bros. Geo. Gott, and N. L. Steiner.
- PAST GRAND PURSUIVANTS.—V. W. Bros. A. Morton and E. E. Kitchen.
- PAST GRAND STEWARDS.—V. W. Bros. D. A. Rose, J. McK. Wilson, Jas. Old, jr., R. R. Fulton, John Hall, C. F. Harris, Jas. McNeil, D. J. Bridle, T. W. Chapple, R. J. Pujolas, J. G. Gillespie, and J. S. Bishop.
- PAST GRAND STANDARD BEARERS.—V. W. Bros. L. A. Congdon, and R. Cuthbert.

Before the opening of Grand Lodge, Thomas Elliott, Esq., Mayor of Brantford, and a number of the members of the City Council were announced, introduced and presented the following

ADDRESS OF WELCOME :

To the M. W. William Gibson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario, of A. F. and A. M.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to say through you to this Grand Lodge that it is with pleasure we greet yourself and the other officers and members of the Grand Lodge, and on behalf of the citizens of Brantford bid you a hearty welcome to this our Telephone City.

It would be out of place for me to attempt to refer to the Order of which this Grand Body forms so conspicuous a portion, in detail, and no doubt were I to attempt to do so I would have to go so deeply into ancient history and bygone ages that this address would become so lengthy that I might be tiresome, and your time would be too much taken up in listening to and noting its contents. I will therefore confine myself to matters with which I am more conversant and nearer home.

The Order of Masonry is of ancient origin and as time rolls its ceaseless course, and research of ancient records increases and becomes keener, and the desire of knowledge and light is greater, we learn that facts appertaining to the antiquity of the order are being constantly discovered and brought again to the light of day. It is well known that during the Middle Ages the first monuments of architecture, especially in the form of great churches in France, Germany and elsewhere owe their origin to Masonry. Under the circumstances indicated there can be no doubt that Masonic research has become one of the most instructive and interesting pursuits in which men learned, or seeking after light, can engage. But, Most Worthy Sir, I must leave such matters to the historian and antiquarian.

Allow me to congratulate this Grand Body and yourself on the great good the Order is doing to-day for the advancement of mankind in matters of light and learning, and the betterment of the world at large, and on the valuable lessons we see of charity and every form of benevolence which its celebrated ritual illustrates, and inculcates in the minds of its members. So that even when death, the fell destroyer, visits us it is consoling to know that the heart and the hand of our Ancient Brotherhood is ever ready to afford consolation and relief to the afflicted and bereaved, who otherwise would be left to the cold charities of an unfeeling world.

We thoroughly appreciate the fact that the Order which teaches the lessons above indicated is not only worthy of the respect and admiration of humanity at large, but must find favor with the Great Architect of the Universe who inspires its teachings and controls its destinies, as a proof of which may be taken the success of the Order, in many instances under very adverse circumstances.

In conclusion let us again heartily welcome you to the homes and hospitalities of our good City of Brantford.

There are many interesting and pleasing sights in connection with our city, and all or any of our citizens would take great pleasure in pointing out and explaining the same to you.

We trust that you may have a pleasant session for yourselves and a beneficial one for the Society.

As Chief Magistrate of the City, and knowing the teaching of the Order, it affords me pleasure to offer you the freedom of Brantford.

Signed on behalf of the Committee and Corporation,

THOMAS ELLIOTT,
Mayor.

The M. W. the Grand Master, having made a suitable response, and a constitutional number of lodges being represented, the Grand Lodge was opened in *ample form* at 3 o'clock, p. m., and the Grand Chaplain implored a blessing from the G. A. O. T. U. upon the proceedings.

A deputation of Masters from the Brantford Lodges were announced, introduced, and presented the following

ADDRESS OF WELCOME :

To William Gibson, Esq., M. P., the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN,—The officers and brethren of the Brantford lodges tender you and the officers and members of Grand Lodge over which you so ably and worthily preside, a most cordial welcome on this the occasion of your first official visit to the City of Brantford, in this the Diamond Jubilee year of Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India.

We congratulate Grand Lodge on the elevation of so distinguished a craftsman to the responsible and honorable position of Grand Master, the duties of which office you are so capably discharging with credit to yourself and benefit to the Craft.

While we regret that the absence in the Mother Country deprives Grand Lodge of the hearty greeting and sagacious councils of our Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother J. J. Mason, we take pride in the fact that his absence is due to the fact his being one of those chosen to represent our vast Dominion in the Jubilee Celebration, which has proved so potent a factor in welding together into one harmonious whole the widely separated and complex interests of the British Empire.

We trust, Most Worshipful Sir, that yourself, your colleagues and the subordinate members of the Grand Lodge may thor-

oughly enjoy your visit to this, the Telephone City, in furtherance of which we pledge ourselves to use our best endeavors.

BRANTFORD, July 21st, 1897.

D. B. WOOD,
*Worshipful Master Brant Lodge, No. 121, A. F. & A. M.,
G. C. R.*

F. G. FAWKES,
*Worshipful Master Doric Lodge, No. 121, A. F. & A. M.,
G. R. C.*

To which the M. W. the Grand Master replied as follows :

BRETHREN,—I thank you on my own behalf and on behalf of Grand Lodge for the hearty welcome extended to us on our visit to the City of Brantford for the purpose of holding this annual communication.

With respect to what you have said of me personally in your address, I may express my conviction that my chief claim to the loyalty and love of the craft, apart from the distinguished position which I hold, is the earnest desire which I have always felt for the advancement of Masonry and the inculcation of the tenets of our order. I have not in the past spared myself in the discharge of what I conceive to be my duty, and in the future I shall endeavor to merit the confidence which my brethren have reposed in me by electing me to the most distinguished and honorable position in the gift of the craft.

I, as well as the members of Grand Lodge in general, regret as you do the absence of our efficient and genial Grand Secretary, whose many accomplishments and great versatility create constant demand upon his time. To R. W. Bro. Mason's military enthusiasm and his excellence as an officer are due his selection for the command of the Bisley team, which we learn has given an excellent account of itself in the mother land.

On behalf of Grand Lodge I thank you, brethren, for your efforts to accommodate the members during their present visit to your beautiful city. I am well aware that, except in the largest cities, the task of providing for all the visitors is no easy one, and so far as I have been able to learn your efforts have been crowned with perfect success.

You have my best wishes for your future welfare.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

R. W. Bros. R. B. Hungerford, and Wm. Roaf and W. Bro. S. F. Passmore, the Committee on Credentials of Representatives and Proxies from Lodges, reported the following as being present :

- No. 2. Niagara, Niagara.*
W. Bro. W. E. Lyall, W. M.
- No. 3. The Ancient St. John's, Kingston.*
W. Bro. R. D. Baker, W. M. ; M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem, P. M.
- No. 5. Sussex, Brockville.*
W. Bro. Thomas Dowell, W. M.
- No. 6. Barton, Hamilton.*
W. Bro. J. G. Gauld, W. M. ; M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson ; R. W. Bros. H. A. Mackay, Gavin Stewart, W. R. Howse, and W. Bros. Jas. Bicknell, T. Clappison, J. G. Counter, H. S. Griffin, A. McPherson, W. E. Henderson, P. M's.
- No. 7. Union, Grimsby.*
W. Bros. Richard Lipsit, W. M., W. D. Forbes, P. M.
- No. 10. Norfolk, Simcoe.*
W. Bro. W. P. Price, W. M. ; R. W. Bro. E. G. Wells ; W. Bros. T. Atkinson, W. P. Kelley, Frank Reid and G. H. Luscombe, P. M's.
- No. 11. Moira, Belleville.*
W. Bro. D. F. Bogart, W. M. ; R. W. Bro. A. McGinnis, P. M.
- No. 14. True Britons, Perth.*
W. Bro. W. T. Walker, W. M. ; W. Bro. Geo. Findlay, P. M.
- No. 15. St. George's, St. Catharines.*
W. Bro. W. H. Merritt, W. M. ; and Bros. J. E. Hetherington, C. H. Connor, Geo. Burch, and Chas. McGhie, P. M's.
- No. 16. St. Andrew's, Toronto.*
W. Bro. J. E. Hansford, W. M. ; R. W. Bros. W. C. Wilkinson ; V. W. Bro. D. A. Rose, and W. Bro. Jas. Glanville, P. M's.
- No. 17. St. John's, Cobourg.*
R. W. Bro. R. J. Craig, P. M., Proxy ; W. Bro. A. R. Hargraft, P. M.
- No. 18. Prince Edward, Picton.*
W. Bro. Geo. L. Hough, W. M.
- No. 20. St. John's, London.*
W. Bro. Alex. Findlay, W. M. ; R. W. Bro. A. B. Greer, P. M.
- No. 21a. St. John's Vankleek Hill.*
Bro. Jas. McCullough, W. M.
- No. 22. King Solomon's, Toronto.*
R. W. Bro. Aubrey White, P. M., Proxy ; M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, P. M.
- No. 23. Richmond, Richmond Hill.*
W. Bros. Thos. H. French, W. M. ; Thomas Newton, P. M.
- No. 24. St. Francis, Smith's Falls.*
W. Bro. Wm. Hyndman, W. M.

- No. 25. Ionic, Toronto.*
R. W. Bro. Wm. Roaf, P. M., Proxy ; M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr,
R. W. Bro. G. J. Bennett, V. W. Bro. G. S. Ryerson and W.
Bro. Walter Barwick, P. M's.
- No. 26. Ontario, Port Hope.*
Bro. the Rev. G. H. Broughall, J. W.; V. W. Bro. Jas. Evans
and W. Bros. H. A. Ward and J. Hoffman, P. M's.
- No. 27. Strict Observance, Hamilton.*
W. Bro. Geo. W. Kappele, W. M.; Bro. Walder Parke, S.
W.; Bro. W. C. Breckenridge, J. W.; R. W. Bros. R. L.
Gunn, and Thos. Lester and W. Bro. T. M. Davis, P. M's.
- No. 29. United, Brighton.*
W. Bro. T. D. Sanford, W. M.
- No. 30. Composite, Whitby.*
W. Bro. P. Taylor, W. M.; Bro. John Burns, J. W.; and R.
W. Bros. A. M. Ross, G. H. F. Dartnell, P. M's.
- No. 32. Amity, Dunnville.*
Bro. J. C. Eccles, S. W.; R. W. Bro. S. Amsden, V. W. Bro.
L. A. Congdon and W. Bro. A. S. Thornton, P. M's.
- No. 34. Thistle, Amherstburg.*
R. W. Bro. Geo. Gott, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 35. St. John's, Cayuga.*
W. Bro. David Thomson, W. M.; Bro. L. L. Barber, S. W.;
W. Bros. W. M. Connor, J. A. Hoshal, J. G. Carruthers, G.
R. Powell and C. C. Gibson, P. M's.
- No. 37. King Hiram, Ingersoll.*
W. Bro. J. P. Boles, W. M.
- No. 38. Trent, Trenton.*
W. Bro. R. H. Spencer, W. M.; R. W. Bro. Rev. W. T. Wil-
kins, P. M.
- No. 40. St. John's, Hamilton.*
W. Bro. W. Birrell, P. M. and Proxy ; R. W. Bros. W. G.
Reid, Thos. McCallum and John Malloy, P. M's.
- No. 42. St. George's, London.*
W. Bro. H. Hayman, W. M. ; R. W. Bro. A. B. Munson, W.
Bros. J. Callard and John Blanch, P. M's.
- No. 43. King Solomon's, Woodstock.*
W. Bro. Geo. H. Cheyne, W. M.; R. W. Bro. G. J. Fraser,
P. M.
- No. 44. St. Thomas, St. Thomas.*
W. Bro. T. J. S. Fraser, W. M. ; W. Bros. S. Dubber, J. S.
Robinson and W. R. Travers, P. M's.
- No. 45. Brant, Brantford.*
W. Bro. D. B. Wood, W. M. ; Bro. S. W. Frank, S. W. ;
Bro. J. Broadbent, J. W. ; R. W. Bros. H. McK. Wilson, V.
W. Bro. W. Watt, Jr., and W. Bros. J. E. Taylor, S. F.
Passmore, N. D. Neil and A. E. Hartey, P. M's.
- No. 46. Wellington, Chatham.*
W. Bro. F. F. Quinn, W. M.
- No. 47. Great Western, Windsor.*
W. Bro. Thos. Peters, W. M. ; Bro. G. B. Quamby, S. W.
- No. 48. Madoc, Madoc.*
W. Bro. J. R. Orr, W. M.
- No. 52. Dalhousie, Ottawa.*
Bro. E. M. Walker, J. W. ; R. W. Bro. E. D. Parlow, P. M.
- No. 54. Vaughan, Map'e.*
W. Bro. J. T. Saigeon, W. M.

- No. 56. *Victoria, Sarnia.*
W. Bro. A. Weir, W. M.
- No. 57. *Harmony, Binbrook.*
W. Bro. R. Wright, W. M.; S. C. Wright, P. M.
- No. 58. *Doric, Ottawa.*
W. Bro. Chas. A. Abbott, W. M.
- No. 61. *Acacia, Hamilton.*
W. Bro. R. V. Matthews, W. M.; M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray,
R. W. Bro. G. C. Holden, W. Bros. A. R. Whyte, Lyman
Lee and W. W. Greenhill, P. M's.
- No. 62. *St. Andrew's, Caledonia.*
V. W. Bro. Jas. Old, Jr., P. M. and Proxy; W. Bros. J.
Bingle and H. C. Clark, P. M's.
- No. 63. *St. John's Carleton Place.*
W. Bro. R. J. Morgan, W. M.
- No. 64. *Kilwinning, London.*
W. Bro. A. D. Hodgins, W. M.; W. Bros. J. Dambra and
A. A. Campbell, P. M's.
- No. 65. *Rehoboam, Toronto.*
W. Bro. Chas. H. Mortimer, W. M.; Bro. J. McCurrah, S. W.;
Bro. D. Haskins, J. W.; R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon and W. Bro.
W. J. Graham, P. M's.
- No. 66. *Durham, Newcastle.*
W. Bro. the Rev. J. Farncomb, W. M.
- No. 68. *St. Johns, Ingersoll*
W. Bro. Thos. Dougan, W. M.; R. W. Bro. J. C. Hegler and
W. Bro. W. Partlo, P. M's.
- No. 69. *Stirling, Stirling.*
W. Bro. H. S. Ferguson, W. M.
- No. 72. *Alma, Galt.*
W. Bro. W. Baird, W. M.; V. W. Bro. J. D. Allan and W.
Bros. J. W. Porteous, J. S. Wardlow and C. Turnbull, P. M's.
- No. 73. *St. James, St. Marys.*
W. Bro. W. O'Brien, W. M.
- No. 74. *St. James, Bethel.*
W. Bro. S. R. Staynor, P. M. and proxy.
- No. 75. *St. John's Toronto.*
W. Bros. S. Love, W. M.; V. W. Bro. N. L. Steiner and W.
Bros. C. A. Matthews and J. Tomlinson, P. M's.
- No. 76. *Oxford, Woodstock.*
W. Bro. R. W. Moote, W. M.; Bro. the Rev. T. C. Farthing,
J. W.; R. W. Bros. F. C. Martin, Jas. Sutherland, V. W.
R. R. Fulton, W. Bros. F. J. Ure and Jas. McLung, P. M's.
- No. 77. *Faithful Brethren, Lindsay.*
Bro. A. Williamson, S. W.
- No. 78. *King Hiram, Tilsonburg.*
W. Bro. R. W. Armstrong, W. M.; W. Bros. John McDonald,
W. McDonald, W. S. Law and J. McIntosh, P. M's.
- No. 79. *Simcoe, Bradford.*
W. Bro. W. J. Sutherland, P. M. and proxy.
- No. 81. *St. John's, Mount Bridges.*
W. Bro. John Betts, W. M.
- No. 82. *St. John's, Paris.*
W. Bro. F. Smoke, W. M.; Bro. J. R. Inksater, S. W.; Bro.
H. Walker, J. W.; R. W. Bro. P. H. Cox, W. Bros. P. Buck-
ley, W. W. Patterson, A. H. Baird, F. Hammond, A. N.
Parney, C. M. Foley and T. Thompson, P. M's.

- No. 83. *Beaver, Strathroy.*
W. Bro. A. E. Alexander, W. M.
- No. 84. *Clinton, Clinton.*
W. Bro. T. C. Bruce, W. M.; R. W. Bro. J. W. Shaw, P. M.
- No. 85. *Rising Sun, Athens.*
W. Bro. E. A. Geiger and Proxy.
- No. 86. *Wilson, Toronto.*
R. W. Bro. Thos. Sargent, Proxy.
- No. 87. *Markham Union, Markham.*
W. Bro. W. J. Carnaghan, W. M.; R. W. Bro. G. R. Vanzant, P. M.
- No. 88. *St. George's, Owen Sound.*
R. W. Bro. Jas. McLauchlan, P. M. and Proxy; R. W. Bro. R. McKnight, P. M.
- No. 90. *Manito, Collingwood.*
R. W. Bro. W. T. Toner, P. M. and Proxy; M. W. Bro. Henry Robertson and W. Bro. J. Wilson, P. M's.
- No. 91. *Colborne, Colborne.*
W. Bro. J. J. Campbell, P. M.
- No. 92. *Cataraqui, Kingston.*
W. Bro. R. D. Baker, P. M. and Proxy.
- No. 93. *Northern Light, Kincardine.*
W. Bro. F. R. Collins, W. M.; R. W. Bro. Dewitt Martyn, P. M.
- No. 96. *Corinthian, Barrie.*
R. W. Bro. D. F. Macwatt, P. M. and Proxy; V. W. Bro. S. Wesley, P. M.
- No. 97. *Sharon, Sharon.*
Bro. T. J. Power, J. W.
- No. 98. *True Blue, Bolton.*
W. Bro. John McKay, W. M.
- No. 100. *Valley, Dundas.*
W. Bro. W. B. Call. P. M. and Proxy; W. Bros. F. A. Lashaw and D. McMillan, P. M's.
- No. 101. *Corinthian, Peterborough.*
W. Bros. W. F. Johnston, P. M. and Proxy; R. W. Bro. R. E. Wood, P. M.
- No. 103. *Maple Leaf, St. Catharines.*
W. Bro. Jas. Merriman, W. M.; Bro. H. W. Hodgins, S. W.; Bro. B. J. Leubsdorf, J. W.
- No. 104. *St. John's, Norwich.*
R. W. Bro. A. McCurdy, P. M., and Proxy; W. Bro. A. Kenning, P. M.
- No. 106. *Burford, Burford.*
W. Bro. H. Stuart, W. M.; Bro. J. Polley, S. W.; Bro. D. Secord, J. W.; R. W. Bro. W. F. Miles; W. Bros. W. E. Clement, John Collins, F. D. Wilson, C. B. Gorden, J. Stephenson, J. I. Collins, F. A. Johnson and S. Parkhill, P. M's.
- No. 107. *St. Paul's, Lambeth.*
W. Bro. E. W. Raney, P. M., and Proxy; W. Bros. J. W. Crinklaw and D. Irwin, P. M's.
- No. 108. *Blenheim, Princeton.*
W. Bro. C. P. Collins, W. M.; Bro. F. J. Daniel, S. W.; V. W. Bro. John Hall, and W. Bro. J. Smiley, P. M's.
- No. 109. *Albion, Harrowsmith.*
W. Bro. J. K. Godfrey, W. M.

- No. 110. *Central, Prescott.*
W. Bro. A. J. Smith, W. M.
- No. 113. *Wilson, Waterford.*
W. Bro. L. L. Sovereign, W. M.; W. Bros. W. Messacar and Jas. Ross, P. M's.
- No. 114. *Hope, Port Hope.*
W. Bro. J. Taylor, W. M.; W. Bros. W. G. Coulter and Geo. Reading, P. M's.
- No. 115. *Ivy, Beamsville.*
W. Bro. T. A. Simpson, W. M.
- No. 116. *Cassia, Thedford.*
W. Bro. Geo. Sutherland, P. M., Proxy; R. W. Bro. G. W. Holwell, P. M.
- No. 120. *Warran, Fingal.*
W. Bro. F. Guest, P. M.
- No. 121. *Doric, Brantford.*
W. Bro. F. G. Fawkes, W. M.; Bro. D. J. Waterous, S. W.; Bro. W. H. Inglis, J. W.; R. W. Bros. J. G. Liddell, F. C. Heath and L. Secord, and W. Bros. J. W. Digby, C. B. Heyd, W. E. Phin and W. F. Paterson, Jr., P. M's.
- No. 122. *Renfrew, Renfrew.*
W. Bro. W. A. MacKay, P. M., and Proxy.
- No. 123. *The Belleville, Belleville.*
W. Bro. W. M. Ponton, W. M.; R. W. Bro. Pringle, V. W. Bro. W. H. Adams, P. M's.
- No. 125. *Cornwall, Cornwall.*
V. W. Bro. C. F. Mansell, P. M., and Proxy.
- No. 126. *Golden Rule, Campbellford.*
W. Bro. C. E. Dunk, W. M.
- No. 127. *Franck, Frankfort.*
W. Bro. J. A. Consaul, W. M.
- No. 128. *Pembroke, Pembroke.*
W. Bro. J. H. Leach, W. M.; Bro. J. Bodell, J. W.; M. W. Bro. W. R. White, R. W. Bro. J. H. Burritt, V. W. Bro. R. W. Kenning and W. Bro. G. E. Josephs, P. M's.
- No. 129. *The Rising Sun, Aurora.*
W. Bro. J. C. Leadbetter, W. M.; D. A. Radcliffe, P. M.
- No. 135. *St. Clair, Milton.*
W. Bro. M. McCrimmon, W. M.
- No. 136. *Richardson, Stouffville.*
W. Bro. W. J. Stark, W. M.
- No. 137. *Pythagoras, Meaford.*
W. Bro. S. Carson, W. M.
- No. 140. *Malahide, Aylmer.*
W. Bro. C. T. Burdick, P. M., proxy, W. J. Fear, P. M.
- No. 141. *Tudor, Mitchell.*
Bro. C. M. French, S. W.; W. Bro. W. G. Hinds, P. M.
- No. 143. *Friendly Brothers, Iroquois.*
R. W. Bro. D. A. Macdonell, P. M.
- No. 144. *Tecumseh, Stratford.*
W. Bro. W. J. Mooney, W. M.; Bro. R. T. Harding, J. W.; R. W. Bro. J. E. Harding, W. Bros. J. R. Stuart and Wm. McKellar, P. M's.
- No. 145. *J. B. Hall, Millbrook.*
W. Bro. R. H. Hunter, W. M.; R. Ruddy, P. M.

- No. 146. *Prince of Wales, Newburgh.*
R. W. Bro. G. A. Aylesworth, P. M., proxy.
- No. 147. *Mississippi, Almonte.*
Bro. A. F. Shearn, J. W.
- No. 151. *The Grand River, Berlln.*
W. Bros. A. Oelschlager, W. R. Travers, P. M's.
- No. 153. *Burns, Wyoming.*
W. Bro. R. S. Pritchard, W. M.
- No. 155. *Peterborough, Peterborough.*
W. Bro. W. B. Bamford, W. M.; A. Gibson, P. M.
- No. 156. *York, North Toronto.*
W. Bro. C. C. Norris, W. M.
- No. 157. *Simpson, Newboro.'s*
W. Bro. L. S. Lewis, W. M.
- No. 158. *Alexandra, Oil Springs.*
W. Bro. H. A. Beaton, W. M.
- No. 165. *Burlington, Burlington.*
W. Bro. J. Kearns, W. M.
- No. 166. *Wentworth, Stoney Creek.*
W. Bro. W. St. John, W. M.; T. H. Corman, P. M.
- No. 168. *Merritt, Welland.*
W. Bro. W. E. Barker, W. M.; Bro. L. H. Pursel, S. W.
- No. 169. *Macnab Port Colborne.*
W. Bro. W. E. Barker, Proxy.
- No. 170. *Britannia, Seaforth.*
W. Bro. R. Scarlett, W. M.; R. W. Bro. the Rev. J. W. Hodgins, V. W. Bro. Wm. Ballantyne and W. Bro. J. H. Reid, P. M's.
- No. 174. *Walsingham, Port Rowan.*
W. Bro. F. Brock, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 177. *The Builders, Ottawa.*
W. Bro. E. A. Bradshaw, W. M.; R. W. Bro. Wm. Rea, P. M.
- No. 178. *Plattsville, Plattsville.*
Bro. W. Kaufman, J. W.; R. W. Bro. T. Allshire and W. Bro. R. Hewitt, P. M's.
- No. 180. *Speed, Guelph.*
W. Bro. A. Robertson, W. M.; R. W. Bro. J. Scoon and W. Bro. O. H. Ainsworth, P. M's.
- No. 181. *Oriental, Port Burwell.*
W. Bro. M. G. Burwell, W. M.
- No. 184. *Old Light, Lucknow.*
R. W. Bro. J. S. Tennant, P. M., Proxy; W. Bro. Harry Days, P. M.
- No. 185. *Enniskillen, York.*
V. W. Bro. W. Clark, P. M.
- No. 186. *Plantaganet, Plantaganet.*
W. Bros J. Smith, W. M., and W. T. Franklin, P. M.
- No. 190. *Belmont, Belmont.*
W. Bro. Jos. Potts, P. M., Proxy; R. W. Bro. J. Boyd, P. M.
- No. 193. *Scotland, Scotland.*
Bro. W. E. Smith, S. W.; Bro. E. G. Malcolm, J. W., and W. Bros. C. L. Merritt, L. A. Winegarden, J. D. Eddy, W. C. Smith, W. E. Hooker, J. E. Anderson, P. M's.
- No. 194. *Petrolia, Petroia.*
R. W. Bro. John Sinclair, P. M., Proxy.

- No. 195. The Tuscan, London.*
W. Bro. J. Higginbottom, W. M.; R. W. Bros. R. B. Hungerford, A. W. Porte V. W. Bro. Thos. Beattie, and A. J. McWhinney, P. M's.
- No. 196. Madawaska, Arnprior.*
R. W. Bro. J. H. Burritt, Proxy.
- No. 197. Saugeen, Walkerton.*
V. W. Bro. C. F. Harris, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 201. Leeds, Gananoque.*
W. Bro. W. G. Hinds, W. M.
- No. 203. Irvine, Elora.*
W. Bro. W. A. Petrie, W. M.; Bro. N. MacMurchy, S. W.; R. W. Bro. T. P. Smith and W. Bro. E. Burns, P. M's.
- No. 205. New Dominion, New Hamburg.*
W. Bro. J. Smith, W. M.
- No. 207. Lancaster, Lancaster.*
W. Bro. A. D. Cameron, W. M.
- No. 209a St. John's, London.*
Bro. J. D. Balfour, S. W., and R. W. Bros. J. S. Dewar and Geo. C. Davis, P. M's.
- No. 215. Lake, Ameliasburg.*
W. Bro. A. L. Parliament, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 216. Harris, Orangeville.*
W. Bro. Robt. Mann, W. M.
- No. 217. Frederick, Delhi.*
W. Bro. John Dowswell, W. M.
- No. 218. Stevenson, Toronto.*
Bro. E. Egan, J. W.; M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, V. W. Bro. R. Cuthbert and W. Bros. R. W. Higginbottom and J. W. Jones, P. M's.
- No. 219. Credit, Georgetown.*
W. Bro. J. G. Harley, W. M.; W. Bro. S. Beaumont, P. M.
- No. 220. Zeredatha, Uxbridge.*
W. Bro. H. J. Gould, W. M.; V. W. Bro. T. W. Chapple and W. Bro. Geo. Thompson, P. M's.
- No. 222. Marmora, Marmora.*
W. Bro. T. Mawson, W. M.
- No. 224. Zurich, Hensall.*
W. Bro. G. T. McKay, W. M.; Bro. Jos. Ellis, S. W.
- No. 225. Bernard, Listowell.*
Bro. F. R. Blewett, J. W.; V. W. Bro. M. McD. Fleming and W. Bros. H. B. Morphy, B. F. Brook, P. M's.
- No. 229. Ionic, Brampton.*
V. W. Bro. A. Morton, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 230. Kerr, Barrie.*
W. Bro. W. J. Sutherland, W. M.; J. C. Morgan and R. A. Douglas, P. M's.
- No. 231. Fidelity, Ottawa.*
W. Bro. H. W. Wilson, W. M.
- No. 232. Cameron, Dutton.*
W. Bro. J. S. Robinson, Proxy.
- No. 234. Beaver, Clarksburg.*
R. W. Bro. Chas. Pye, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 237. Vienna, Vienna.*
W. Bro. C. M. Wilson, W. M.; Bro. M. C. Drake, S. W.

- No. 243. *St. George, St. George.*
W. Bro. Chas. Haas, W. M.; V. W. Bro. E. E. Kitchen,
W. Bro. Jos. Vanatter, P. M.
- No. 247. *Ashlar, Toronto.*
R. W. Bro. B. Allen, P. M., Proxy; W. H. Best, C. Morrison and J. McKnight, P. M's.
- No. 253. *Minden, Kingston.*
R. W. Bro. Allan McLean, P. M., Proxy; W. Bro. T. D. Minnes, P. M.
- No. 254. *Clifton, Niagara Falls.*
W. Bro. F. F. Wood, W. M.; R. W. Bro. J. C. Bartle and
W. Bro. W. F. Broughton, P. M's.
- No. 256. *Farran's Point, Farran's Point.*
W. Bro. S. Henry, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 257. *Galt, Galt.*
W. Bro. W. Cowan, W. M.; Bro. T. C. Pearce, J. W.; W.
Bros. W. F. Mitchell and G. H. Thomas, P. M's.
- No. 258. *Guelph, Guelph.*
Bro. F. W. Darby, J. W.; R. W. Bros. Hugh Walker, R.
Mahoney, and W. Bro. Robert Higham, P. M's.
- No. 260. *Washington, Petrolia.*
R. W. Bro. John Sinclair, Proxy.
- No. 261. *Oak Branch, Innerkip.*
W. Bro. W. H. Nesbitt, W. M.; W. E. Hopkins and E. W.
Town, P. M's.
- No. 262. *Harriston, Harriston.*
W. Bro. A. G. Campbell, P. M., proxy.
- No. 264. *Chaudiere, Ottawa.*
W. Bro. R. W. Fair, W. M.
- No. 266. *Northern Light, Stayner.*
W. Bro. A. J. F. Sullivan, W. M.; R. W. Bro. N. B. Sanders and W. Bro. Jos. Hood, P. M's.
- No. 267. *Parthenon, Chatham.*
W. Bro. Jos. Winterburn, W. M.; R. W. Bro. J. B. Rankin, P. M.
- No. 268. *Verulam, Bobcaygeon.*
W. Bro. E. F. Fitzgerald, Proxy.
- No. 269. *Brougham Union, Brougham.*
W. Bro. W. G. Barnes, W. M.
- No. 271. *Wellington, Erin.*
W. Bro. T. E. Carberry, W. M.; W. H. Graham, P. M.
- No. 272. *Seymour, Ancaster.*
W. Bro. G. B. Smith, W. M.; V. W. Bro. Jas. Stewart,
P. M.
- No. 277. *Seymour, Port Dalhousie.*
W. Bro. Wm. Thompson, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 278. *Mystic, Roslin.*
W. Bro. E. B. Mullitt, W. M.
- No. 279. *New Hope, Hespeler.*
W. Bro. Thos. Shaw, W. M.; Bro. R. G. Scott, S. W.; R.
W. Bro. A. B. Jardine, and W. Bros. C. Pabst, R. J. Lockhart, W. Jardine, John Stark and A. H. Wittmark, P. M's.
- No. 282. *Lorne, Glencoe.*
W. Bro. W. J. French, W. M.
- No. 283. *Eureka, Belleville.*
W. Bro. W. Alford, W. M.; L. R. Terwilligar, P. M.

- No. 285. *Seven Star, Alliston.*
W. Bro. W. S. Ellis, P. M., Proxy; V. W. Bro. H. M. Wright, P. M.
- No. 289. *Doric, Lobo.*
W. Bros. J. D. Dewar, N. A. Graham, and D. A. Graham, P. M's.
- No. 290. *Leamington, Leamington.*
W. Bro. R. Hillier, W. M.
- No. 291. *Dufferin, West Flamboro.*
W. Bro. A. E. Terryberry, W. M.; John Simon, Jas. Adams, and J. Burbank, P. M's.
- No. 295. *Conestogo, Drayton.*
W. Bro. T. Flath, P. M.
- No. 296. *Temple, St. Catharines.*
W. Bro. Chas. O. Beam, W. M.; Bro. J. C. Notman, J. W.; R. W. Bro. D. Robertson and W. Bros. A. J. Macgregor, and Wm. Thomson, P. M's.
- No. 297. *Preston, Preston.*
R. W. Bro. W. D. Hepburn, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 300. *Mt. Olivet, Thorndale.*
W. Bro. J. D. Salmon, W. M.
- No. 302. *St. David's, St. Thomas.*
W. Bro. E. T. Green, W. M.; R. W. Bro. Alex. Hess, P. M.
- No. 303. *Blyth, Blyth.*
W. Bro. J. B. Tiernay, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 304. *Minerva, Stroud.*
W. Bro. David Carlyle, P. M.
- No. 305. *Humber, Weston.*
V. W. Bro. R. J. Pujolas, Proxy.
- No. 307. *Arkona, Arkona.*
W. Bro. Jas. Jackson, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 311. *Blackwood, Woodbridge.*
R. W. Bro. Aubrey White, Proxy.
- No. 313. *Clementi, Lakefield.*
W. Bro. R. J. Munro, W. M.
- No. 314. *Blair, Palmerston.*
W. Bro. J. A. Greenlaw, W. M.; V. W. Bro. H. Hyndman, jr., P. M.
- No. 315. *Clifford, Clifford.*
W. Bro. H. Graef, W. M.; R. W. Bro. J. S. Dewar and W. Bro. A. T. Allan, P. M's.
- No. 316. *Doric, Toronto.*
V. W. Bro. A. A. S. Ardagh, P. M., Proxy; R. W. Bro. H. A. Collins, and W. Bro. H. Leeson, P. M's.
- No. 318. *Wilmot, Baden.*
R. W. Bro. G. F. Holwell, Proxy.
- No. 320. *Chesterville, Chesterville.*
V. W. Bro. J. G. Gillespie, P. M., Proxy; W. Bro. R. M. Smith, P. M.
- No. 322. *North Star, Owen Sound.*
R. W. Bros. Geo. Inglis, P. M., Proxy; R. W. Bro. John Creasor, and W. Bro. W. A. Bishop, P. M's.
- No. 324. *Temple, Hamilton.*
W. Bro. R. T. Dickenson, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 325. *Orono, Orono.*
W. Bro. J. W. Cornish, W. M.

- No. 326. *Zetland, Toronto.*
R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, P. M., Proxy; W. Bro. C. J. Hohl, P. M.
- No. 327. *The Hammond, Wardsville.*
W. Bro. J. T. McKillop, W. M.
- No. 328. *Ionic, Napier.*
W. Bro. W. H. Sutherland, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 329. *King Solomon's, Jarvis.*
W. Bro. Jas. Duncan, W. M., and R. W. Bro. W. Jaques, P. M.
- No. 330. *Corinthian, London East.*
V. W. Bro. Peter Toll, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 331. *Fordwich, Fordwich.*
W. Bro. Alex. Wyness, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 332. *Stratford, Stratford.*
W. Bro. W. H. Neil, W. M.; Bro. H. J. Powell, S. W.; R. W. Bro. J. A. Macfadden and V. W. Bro. J. T. Bishop, P. M's.
- No. 337. *Myrtle, Port Robinson.*
W. Bro. W. E. Barker, P. M. Proxy.
- No. 339. *Orient, Toronto.*
W. Bro. Ira Bates, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 341. *Bruce, Tiverton.*
R. W. Bro. D. H. Martyn, Proxy.
- No. 343. *Georgina, Toronto.*
W. Bros. A. L. Malone, P. M., Proxy; C. C. Whale, P. M.
- No. 344. *Merrill, Dorchester.*
W. Bro. Geo. Wade, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 345. *Nilestown, Nilestown.*
W. Bro. Jos. Wilson, W. M.
- No. 346. *The Occident, Toronto.*
W. Bro. T. W. Barber, W. M.; J. S. Williams, P. M.
- No. 347. *Mercer, Fergus.*
W. Bro. J. A. Goodall, W. M.; Jas. Philip, P. M.
- No. 348. *Georgian, Pentanguishene.*
R. W. Bro. R. McKnight, Proxy.
- No. 352. *Granite, Parry Sound.*
Bro. Jas. Calder, S. W.; R. W. Bro. J. H. Knifton and W. Bro. Thos. McGowan, P. M's.
- No. 354. *Brock, Cannington.*
W. Bro. Thos. Foster, W. M.
- No. 358. *Delaware, Delaware Valley.*
W. Bro. John Ackland, W. M.; R. W. Bro. W. C. Harris, and W. Bro. J. R. Hammond, P. M's.
- No. 359. *Vittoria, Vittoria.*
R. W. Bro. W. Kennedy, P. M.
- No. 360. *Muskoka, Bracebridge.*
W. Bro. A. A. Mahaffy, W. M.; V. W. Bro. Richard Mills, P. M.
- No. 361. *Waverley, Guelph.*
Bro. J. H. Naismith, J. W.
- No. 362. *Maple Leaf, Tara.*
W. Bro. Andrew Hamilton, W. M.
- No. 367. *St. George, Toronto.*
W. Bro. J. J. Thompson, W. M.; Bro. J. W. Hickson, J. W.; R. W. Bro. J. H. Hetherington and W. Bro. A. E. Gault, P. M's.

- No. 368. *Salem, Brockville.*
W. Bro. S. R. Stayner, W. M.; E. A. Geiger, and T. A. Stayner, P. M's.
- No. 371. *Prince of Wales, Ottawa.*
W. Bro. John J. Mulligan, W. M.
- No. 372. *Palmer, Bridgeburg.*
R. W. Bro. A. B. Hurrell, W. M.
- No. 373. *Copestone, Welland.*
V. W. Bro. W. E. Barker, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 374. *Keene, Keene.*
V. W. Bro. Jas. McNeil, Proxy.
- No. 375. *Lorne, Omamee.*
W. Bro. W. F. Johnson, Proxy.
- No. 376. *Unity, Huntsville.*
W. Bro. J. W. Hart, W. M.
- No. 378. *King Solomon's, London West.*
W. Bro. John Hobbs, W. M.; R. W. Bro. John Simpson and W. Bros. B. J. Nash, W. J. Element, E. T. Essery, and A. R. Galpin, P. M's.
- No. 379. *Middlesex, Bryanston.*
W. Bro. Geo. F. Morris, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 380. *Union, London.*
W. Bro. W. C. Fitzgerald, W. M.; Bro. H. Ryan, J. W.; V. W. Bro. O. J. Bridle and W. Bros. Geo. Morton, G. F. Morris, and N. McNeil, P. M's.
- No. 382. *Doric, Hamilton.*
Bro. W. F. Montague, S. W.; V. W. Bros. R. E. Gallagher, C. V. Emory and W. Bros. Jas. Cheyne, Chas. S. Kilgour, Jas. Dixon and Fred. Walter, P. M's.
- No. 383. *Henderson, Winchester.*
W. Bro. Geo. Johnson, W. M.
- No. 384. *Alpha, Toronto.*
W. Bro. J. W. St. John, W. M.; C. P. Sparling, and W. T. Barker, P. M's.
- No. 385. *Spry, Beeton.*
W. Bro. J. R. Croft, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 386. *McColl, West Lorne.*
W. Bro. J. D. Campbell, W. M.
- No. 388. *Henderson, Ilderton.*
W. Bro. Thos. Oliver, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 389. *Crystal Fountain, North Augusta.*
W. Bro. T. A. Stayner, Proxy.
- No. 390. *Florence, Florence.*
R. W. Bro. W. R. Hickey, Proxy.
- No. 391. *Howard, Ridgetown.*
Bro. J. C. Lock, S. W.
- No. 392. *Huron, Camlachie.*
W. Bro. Thos. Crawford, W. M.
- No. 394. *King Solomon's, Thamesford.*
W. Bros. A. Patterson and J. G. McNee, P. M's.
- No. 395. *Parvaim, Comber.*
W. Bro. Jas. Kerr, W. M.; A. J. Brown, P. M.
- No. 396. *Cedar, Wiarton.*
W. Bro. W. J. Ferguson, W. M.; R. W. Bro. Jas. Walmsley, P. M.
- No. 398. *Victoria, Victoria Road.*
W. Bro. W. L. Wood, P. M., Proxy.

- No. 399. *Moffut, Harrietsville.*
W. Bro. J. J. Jelly P. M., Proxy.
- No. 400. *Oakville, Oakville.*
W. Bro. W. H. Robinson, W. M.
- No. 402. *Central, Prescott.*
R. W. Bro. A. H. Clark, P. M.
- No. 403. *Windsor, Windsor.*
W. Bro. Irving H. Taylor, W. M.; Bro. J. H. Rodd, S. W.;
R. W. Bro. E. S. Wigle and W. Bro. R. F. Golden, P. M's.
- No. 406. *The Spry, Fenelon Falls.*
W. Bro. E. Fitzgerald, W. M.
- No. 409. *Golden Rule, Gravenhurst.*
W. Bro. W. H. Howey, Proxy.
- No. 410. *Zeta, Toronto.*
Bro. J. D. H. Browne, J. W.; V. W. Bro. C. F. Mansell,
P. M.
- No. 412. *Keystone, Sault Ste. Marie.*
W. Bro. M. McFadden, W. M.
- No. 413. *Naphtali, Tilbury.*
W. Bro. Jas. Reynolds, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 414. *Pequonga, Rat Portage.*
W. Bro. M. McFadden, Proxy.
- No. 416. *Lyn, Lyn.*
W. Bro. T. Dowell, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 417. *Keewatin, Keewatin.*
W. Bro. M. McFadden, Proxy.
- No. 418. *Maxville, Maxville.*
W. Bros. D. A. Munroe, P. M., Proxy; S. Henry, P. M.
- No. 419. *Bismarck, Point Edward.*
W. Bro. Thos. Pearson, W. M.; R. W. Bro. B. F. George,
P. M.
- No. 420. *Nipissing, North Bay.*
W. Bro. W. H. Howey, Proxy.
- No. 421. *Scott, Grand Valley.*
V. W. Bro. G. H. Cooper, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 424. *Doric, Pickering.*
Bro. Wm. Gormley, S. W.
- No. 426. *Stanley, Toronto Junction.*
R. W. Bro. G. J. Bennett, Proxy.
- No. 427. *Nickel, Sudbury.*
W. Bro. W. H. Howey, P. M., Proxy.
- No. 430. *Acacia, East Toronto.*
W. Bro. J. Parsell, W. M.; Bro. R. Hunter, J. W.; W. Bro.
M. P. McMaster, P. M.
- No. 431. *Moravian, Eden Grove.*
W. Bro. Thos. Pinkerton, P. M.
- No. 432. *Hanover, Hanover.*
W. Bros. John Mitchell, W. M.; Geo. Landerkin, P. M.
- No. 433. *Bonnechere, Eganville.*
W. Bro. W. A. Mackay, Proxy.
- No. 434. *Algonquin, Emsdale.*
Bro. H. L. Barber, S. W.
- No. 436. *Burns, Hepworth.*
W. Bros. C. H. Wittheim, W. M.; J. E. Campbell, P. M.
- No. 437. *Tuscan, Sarnia*
W. Bro. F. J. Winloe, W. M.

- No. 438. *Harmony, Toronto.*
R. W. Bros. G. C. Patterson, W. M.; and T. R. Barton,
P. M.
- No. 439. *Alexandria, Alexandria.*
Bro. Thos. C. Allardice, S. W.
- No. 440. *Arcadia, Minden.*
W. Bro. B. J. M. Freer, W. M.
- No. 441. *Westport, Westport.*
W. Bro. Jas. R. Gorrell, W. M.

The M. W. the Grand Master, granted permission for the admission of all Master Masons in good standing as visitors.

The acting Grand Secretary read the rules and regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during the time of business.

The acting Grand Secretary commenced reading the minutes of proceedings at the last Annual Communication, when

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Bro. W. R. White, and

Resolved, That the minutes of proceedings of Grand Lodge at the Forty-first Annual Communication, held in the City of Belleville, on the 15th and 16th days of July, A. D. 1896, having been printed, and copies thereof forwarded to subordinate lodges, the same be considered as read, and be now confirmed, and that the minutes of the several Special Communications of Grand Lodge, entered by the Grand Secretary in the Minute Book, be taken as read, and are hereby confirmed.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

The M. W. the Grand Master delivered the following address to the brethren assembled in Grand Communication:—

BRETHREN OF THE GRAND LODGE:

Let me extend to you, my Brethren of Grand Lodge, a most hearty welcome upon our meeting here to-day in this good city of Brantford, whose founder Captain Joseph Brant was so intimately associated with the earliest history of Freemasonry in this section of the country, as well as with the rise and progress of the material welfare of our beloved Province.

Before entering upon the duties devolving upon us as a Grand Lodge, let us again give thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for permitting so many of us to meet here to-day; may He watch over and protect us; may our labors, begun in order, be conducted in peace, and closed in harmony.

I have great pleasure, in referring to the condition of the Craft within the jurisdiction, to be able to say from personal visits in every portion of the Province, as well as from authentic information derived from the District Deputy Grand Masters, that our noble Craft was never in a healthier condition than at

the present time. On the Register of Grand Lodge there are 357 lodges (the perfect number). It would indeed be marvellous if every one were in a flourishing state, and still more marvellous if in a membership of 24,000 every member was a model of what a Mason should be. It is, however, most gratifying to know that, generally, the lodges are in a flourishing condition, and that very rarely a member, by his life and conduct, brings discredit upon the Fraternity. As a rule the lodges are prosperous and successfully doing the work for which they were established, and the members are living up to their professions.

FINANCE.

I am happy to call the attention of the members of Grand Lodge to our increasing prosperity. Notwithstanding the commercial depression of late years, our capital account has reached the handsome sum of \$94,202.17. During the past year the receipts of Grand Lodge have reached the largest amount in its history, viz.: \$20,828 82, being an increase of \$613 65 over last year.

RECEIPTS.

From lodges.....	\$17,090 50
From Investments.....	3,738 32
	<hr/>
	\$20,828 82
Expenditure.....	17,613 03
	<hr/>
Surplus.....	\$ 3,215 79

Of the total expenditure of the past year, amounting to \$17, 613 03, no less a sum than \$9,887.50, or over 56 per cent was spent for benevolence, leaving \$7,725.53 for all other purposes, and a handsome surplus of \$3,215.79, to be carried to capital account.

I am sure that every member in Grand Lodge will join with me in wishing that this good work will go on and on, and continue with better results as years roll by.

We have the proud satisfaction of knowing that few, if any, Grand Lodges on this continent contribute so much of their income to benevolent purposes. It may not be out of place to say that many of the Grand Lodges of the United States are surprised at the large amount given annually by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and are not stinted in their praise of the good work we are doing through our Benevolent Board.

Owing to the careful supervision of the grants made for Benevolence by the Board, only worthy applicants are now in

receipt of relief. In my judgment the sub-committee on Benevolence should be authorized to make larger grants than are now permitted in deserving cases, the maximum grants at present being \$50.00 for a brother and \$40.00 for a widow. I would recommend that \$100.00 and \$80.00 respectively be the maximum in special cases. I would further recommend that in cases of pressing need arising between meetings of the Grand Lodge the chairman of the sub-committee, with the approval of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and the President of the Board of General Purposes should be authorized to make a grant for purposes of temporary relief, such grant not to exceed \$40.00 to any one applicant.

GENERAL MASONIC RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

No organization in connection with Craft work has done more good than the General Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada. Properly speaking the Association is protective, in that it protects the Craft in private lodges and Grand Lodge from imposture. The fact that in this jurisdiction during the past ten years many thousands of dollars per annum have been saved to the Craft, stamps the organization as most useful in connection with benevolent work.

LEGISLATION.

By reference to the Agenda Paper it will be observed that there are several important motions to come before the Grand Lodge, notice of which has been properly given, and I trust that they will all receive the earnest consideration of Grand Lodge.

The first motion is by M. W. Bro. Spry, and in my judgment has much to recommend it.

Motion No. 2 has been often before Grand Lodge and I am sure will receive the consideration it deserves.

Motion No. 3 appears to me to affect the Constitution, and must therefore be dealt with by the Committee on Constitution and Laws.

The principles embodied in motions Nos. 4 and 5 should, in my judgment, commend themselves to every right thinking member who has the interest of Masonry and the prosperity and success of Grand Lodge at heart.

BY-LAWS.

During the past twelve months I have examined, revised and confirmed the By-laws of ten lodges, and amendments of By-laws of nineteen (19) lodges.

Changes are constantly being made, and it seems to me that in nearly every instance the lodges would secure better and more uniform By-laws were they to follow the model By-laws compiled by M. W. Bro. Murray, Grand Treasurer, and approved by Grand Lodge.

GRAND LODGE HONORS.

In accordance with the recommendations of M. W. Bro. White, and concurred in by Grand Lodge, I conferred the rank of a Past Grand Registrar on R. W. Bro. Geo. C. Patterson, W. M. Harmony Lodge, and R. W. Bros. T. R. Barton and J. J. Ramsay.

I have also conferred the rank of a Past Grand Senior Deacon on V. W. Bro. J. Y. Egan for services in connection with the settlement of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario difficulties.

Whilst on the subject of Grand Lodge honors it might not be out of place to bring before the notice of Grand Lodge a brother who has spent a long and honorable life in the cause of Masonry, and who is one of the very few members now living who worked long and faithfully in establishing the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that whom even now, no brother takes a deeper interest in the welfare of the Craft in the city where he resides. Brethren, need I say that R. W. Bro. Kivas Tully is the one brother in Grand Lodge who should receive the rank of a Past Grand Master. I sincerely trust that this suggestion will meet with the approval of Grand Lodge.

DEDICATIONS.

At Toronto, 24th Sept., 1896, Harmony Lodge was constituted and consecrated by myself, assisted by the Deputy Grand Master, the D. D. G. M. and others. At Sarnia, 4th Nov., 1896, Tuscan Lodge, No. 437, was constituted and consecrated by myself, assisted by R. W. Bro. B. F. George, D. D. G. M., St. Clair District No. 2, and others. At Millgrove on 12th January, 1867, Waterdown Lodge, No. 357, when their new lodge room was dedicated by myself, assisted by R. W. Bro. J. G. Liddell, D. D. G. M., Hamilton No. 8 and others. In addition to the above the following halls have been dedicated for the purposes of Masonry during the past year, viz. : Algonquin Lodge, No. 434, Emsdale, on 14th August, 1896. Burns Lodge, Hepworth, on 25th August, 1896. Havelock Lodge, No. 435, Havelock, on 16th October, 1896. Naph-tali Lodge, No. 413, Tilbury, 28th May, 1897.

DISPENSATIONS FOR NEW LODGES.

I have granted Dispensations for new lodges at the following places, viz : August 11th, 1896, Westport Lodge, Westport, District No. 14. January 7th, 1897, Dymont Lodge, Thessalon, District No. 17. May 28th, 1897, Powassen Lodge, Powassen, District No. 18. Another application was made for a new lodge at Creemore, in the County of Simcoe, which I referred to the Board to be dealt with, as I am not clear as to the actual need of a lodge in the place indicated.

CORNER STONES.

During the past year I had the honor of laying corner stones at the following places, viz. : At Chesley, on 4th August, 1896, when the corner stone of Holy Trinity Church (Anglican) was laid by Grand Lodge with Masonic ceremonies. The brethren turned out in large numbers. At Gananoque on 24th August, 1896, when the corner stone of Grace Church (Methodist) was laid with full Masonic ceremonies by Grand Lodge, assisted by a large number of brethren. And to-day, in this good city of Brantford, Grand Lodge was convened for the purpose of laying the corner stone of one of the many public schools in this city, many of the members of Grand Lodge taking part and assisting in the beautiful ceremonies of the Craft.

Whilst encouragement should be given to the laying of corner stones for places of public worship, public institutions and schools, yet the Grand Master should not be asked to lay a corner stone when another corner stone is to be laid at the same place by someone else. Neither should the Grand Master be called upon to place stones in buildings already in existence, perhaps built years ago.

Worshipful Masters and D. D. G. M.'s should, prior to making application, carefully inquire into all the circumstances and report to the Grand Secretary, so that the Grand Master may be advised whether he would be justified in incurring the trouble and expense of convening a meeting of Grand Lodge. Many persons entertain the idea of using Grand Lodge for the purpose of drawing a crowd together on such occasions, without any higher motives in view.

VISITATIONS.

1. November 2nd, 1896, St. Johns Lodge, No. 75, 40th anniversary.
2. December 2nd, 1896, Northern Light Lodge, No. 93, Kincardine.

3. December 10th, 1896, Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 103, St. Catharines.
 4. December 11th, 1896, Acacia Lodge, No. 61, Hamilton.
 5. December 16th, 1896, St. Johns Lodge, No. 40, Hamilton.
 6. December 17th, 1896, Strict Observance, No. 27, Hamilton.
 7. January 5th, 1897, Ionic Lodge, No. 25, Toronto.
 8. January 11th, 1897, Barton Lodge, No. 6, Hamilton.
 9. January 13th, 1897, Mountain Lodge, No. 221, Thorold.
 10. February 15th, 1897, Ivy Lodge, No. 115, Beamsville.
 11. February 23rd, 1897, Ashlar Lodge, No. 247, Toronto.
 12. March 4th, 1897, Alpha Lodge, No. 384, Toronto.
 13. March 8th, at London Pastmasters' Association.
 14. March 10th, Lodge of Instruction, Essex.
 15. March 16th, Wilson Lodge, No. 86, Toronto.
 16. March 17th, Seymour Lodge, No. 272, Ancaster.
 17. April 23rd, Zetland Lodge, No. 326, Toronto.
 18. May 20th, St. Francis Lodge, No. 24, Smith's Falls.
 19. May 28th, Moira Lodge, No. 11, Belleville, Lodge No. 123, Eureka Lodge No. 283, Belleville.
 20. June 1st, Sussex Lodge, No. 5, and Salem Lodge, No. 368, Brockville.
 21. June 3rd, Pembroke Lodge, No. 128, Pembroke.
 22. June 10th, King Solomon Lodge, No. 22, Toronto; 50th Anniversary.
 23. June 21st, Doric Lodge, No. 382, Hamilton.
 24. June 25th, Tecumseh Lodge, No. 144, Stratford Lodge, No. 332, Stratford.
- Divine Worship at Hamilton, on June 27th, and at Beamsville, July 11th, 1897.

It would be invidious to mention any place in particular, as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada is always received with a most cordial welcome, no matter where he may visit, each lodge seemingly trying to excel the other in doing honor to the head of the craft.

This has been the experience of all my predecessors and will, I trust, be the experience of those who come after me. Many pleasant things occurred at the various meetings, and the hospitality of the brethren was all that could be desired, as my visits were only informal and in response to invitations which I was able in nearly every case to accept. In connection with my visit to Pembroke Lodge, owing to the inability of the Deputy Grand Master to be present, I had the honor, as well as the greatest pleasure in carrying out the

wishes of Grand Lodge, by presenting M. W. Bro. W. R. White, P. G. M., with a magnificent cabinet of cutlery and a suitable address. A large number of the brethren of the town of Pembroke and the surrounding district attended the meeting, showing the esteem in which our M. W. Bro. is held. A banquet followed, and it is needless to say our distinguished brother was the centre of attraction, keeping the brethren from being weary by his inimitable fund of humor.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Lodges of Instruction have been held at the following places, viz.: Essex, Watford, London, St. Mary's, Wingham, Walkerton, Galt and Toronto. Doubtless much good will follow from them, and I would most earnestly impress upon the District Deputies of next year to endeavor to have at least one Lodge of Instruction in their respective districts.

I was only able to attend the one held at Essex Centre on March 10th, 1897, under the able guidance of R. W. Bro. Hickey, assisted by R. W. Bro. Wigle. The work of the various degrees was well exemplified by the officers of Thistle Lodge, No. 34, Amherstburg, Great Western Lodge, No. 47, Windsor, and Central Lodge, No. 402, Essex.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

R. W. Bro. R. B. Hungerford has with my approval been reappointed representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, near this Grand Lodge, for a term of three years ending 1st January, 1900.

Owing to the death of R. W. Bro. P. J. Brown, representative of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, near this Grand Body, I had very great pleasure in recommending R. W. Bro. Wm. Rea, of Ottawa, in the place of our deceased brother. Grand Lodge will have great pleasure in receiving these brethren on presenting their credentials.

HER MAJESTY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

Her Majesty's subjects from every part of the British Empire have either by representatives or by addresses, presented at the foot of the throne their devotion to the person of our Gracious Queen, and in keeping with all Her Majesty's loyal and loving subjects, the members of the Grand Lodge of Canada are having prepared a suitable address, which will be presented by our Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. Mason, through His Royal Highness, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, assuring Her Most Gracious Majesty of the high

esteem, respect and love the members of the Grand Lodge of Canada entertain for her person and her throne.

Masons have more than ordinary right to hold Her Majesty in the highest veneration. Is she not the daughter of a Mason, and the mother of the first Mason in the British Empire, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. A son who became head of the Craft in England at a very critical period in its history, and by the prompt acceptance of that exalted position saved the reputation not only of the Grand Lodge of England, but of every Grand Lodge in the world, thus early shewing the tact and ability that has made him not only the first gentleman in the land, but the most popular in the British Empire.

To the great care the Sovereign has given to all matters affecting the welfare of the Empire over which she rules, and upon which the sun never sets, she has proven to the world that she is not only a ruler in name, but one in reality. She lives in the affections and love of her people, and not in fear, as was so fully exemplified on the 22nd day of June last, when not even more than ordinary care was taken, other than preventing her loving subjects from blocking the highway during the passage of the greatest pageant the world has ever seen, whilst from every part of the British possessions came representatives and their staffs to pay her homage. It is not too much to say that every Canadian feels proud of the position given to our representative and the welcome given to our citizen soldiers, and last, but not by any means least, to our gallant soldiers belonging to the Northwest Mounted Police. Canada has, for the first time in the history of the Dominion, been placed in the front of the self-governing colonies: may she ever continue to retain the love, respect and esteem of the mother land.

Let us all join with Mr. Alfred Austin, the poet laureate of England, in his beautiful verses entitled

VICTORIA, THE GREAT.

The dew was on the summer lawn
The roses bloomed, the woods were green,
When forth there came as fresh as dawn,
A maiden with majestic mien.

They girt a crown about her brow,
They placed a sceptre in her hand,
And loud rang out a nations' vow,
"God guard the lady of the land."

And now the cuckoo calls once more,
 And once again June's roses blow,
 And round her throne her people pour,
 Recalling sixty years ago.

And all the goodly days between,
 Glory and sorrow, love and pain ;
 The wifely mother, widowed Queen,
 The loftiest as the longest reign.

She shared her subjects' bane and bliss,
 Welcomed the wise the base withstood,
 And taught by her clear life it is
 The greatest greatness to be good.

Yet, while for peace she wrought and prayed,
 She bore the trident, wore the helm,
 And Mistress of the main she made
 An empire of her island realm.

So, gathering now, from near, from far,
 From rule whereon ne'er sets the day,
 From Southern Cross and Northern Star,
 Her people lift their hearts and pray.

Longer and longer may she reign
 And, through a summer night serene,
 Whence day doth never wholly wane,
 God spare and bless our Empress-Queen.

GRAND SECRETARY.

The command of the Canadian Bisley rifle team having been offered to R. W. Bro. Mason, I felt confident that in granting him leave of absence I should meet with the approval of Grand Lodge, as every member knows how faithful he has been in the discharge of his duties as Grand Secretary. For the past twenty-eight years, as he says in his report, it is the first time he has been absent from Grand Lodge, and it is certainly the first holiday he has had since he became Grand Secretary. I am sure Grand Lodge will say he well deserves a holiday, and we all feel confident no better selection could have been made for this year. R. W. Bro. Mason will not only be able to discharge the duties of commandant with ability, but he will also reflect credit upon the Dominion of Canada for his excellent skill as a rifleman, as well as discharge the social duties, which will be of an exceptional character, particularly on account of this jubilee year. It is also the first time our Canadian riflemen will be able to entertain their visitors in their new and beautiful building just completed. We all feel confident that he will give a good account of his team in the important matches that are to be held, as our vol-

unteers have so often done in the past, and that, as representing the Canadian riflemen in the old land, he will reflect honor upon Canada as a representative Canadian of excellent management, tact and ability.

I am happy to say that Grand Lodge is very fortunate in having the duties of Grand Secretary well looked after by M. W. Bro. Murray, who will be ably assisted during this meeting by R. W. Bro. R. L. Gunn.

PAST GRAND MASTER SPRY.

It is with feelings of the most profound regret that I make known to the members of Grand Lodge the unavoidable absence of M. W. Bro. Daniel Spry, Past Grand Master, through severe sickness, brought on by too close attention to public business. Bro. Spry's genial face and kindly grasp will be sadly missed at this communication. His ability to comprehend at a glance the salient points of an argument and to enforce the same with knowledge gained by long experience, placed him in the front rank of Grand Lodge legislators. Let us individually and collectively pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe may speedily restore him to his wonted health, for no brother is more beloved by his brethren than he, whose absence from to-day's meeting we all deeply deplore.

IN CONCLUSION.

I might be permitted, before closing, to thank the Masons of Toronto for the handsome address presented to me last September, and signed by every Ruler of the Craft in that city, upon the occasion of my first official visit. Likewise to the brethren of Belleville, Pembroke and Kincardine for the same kind and thoughtful attention, addresses I will be proud to hand down to my children as an evidence of the goodwill and affection of my Masonic brethren, whilst occupying the Grand East, a position I feel prouder of than any I have ever occupied.

I desire to say that whilst I have not been able to visit as many lodges as I could have wished, still I have paid visits to nearly all the Masonic centres, and a large number of the lodges, during the intervals of my public duties, and whilst it may have interfered in some degree with my private business, still I have been fully recompensed by the kindness of the brethren wherever it was my good fortune to go.

To the Deputy Grand Master I am deeply indebted for the loyal support given me. To the many Worshipful Brethren who accompanied me on my visits I am likewise under a debt of gratitude.

To M. Bros. Walkem, Murray, White and J. Ross Robertson I am extremely thankful for the advice given to me. To the Grand Secretary, as all Grand Masters have been, I am under many obligations, and to you my loving Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada, my heart goes out for all your kindness during the past twelve months.

WM. GIBSON,
Grand Master.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Bro. W. R. White, and

Resolved,—That the Address of the M. W. the Grand Master be referred to the Board of General Purposes to report thereon.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the M. W. the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

M. W. SIR AND BRETHREN,

I beg to present to Grand Lodge my Annual Report containing an account of all moneys received by me during the year and the expenditures made, with returns of subordinate lodges as at 24th June 1897, and ledger balances at 31st May, 1897, together with, by instruction of the M. W. the Grand Master, a record of the Especial Communications summoned, dispensations issued, by-laws and amendments thereto approved, Grand Representatives appointed, and other official acts of the M. W. the Grand Master.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

The receipts and expenditure from 1st June 1896, to the 31st May, 1897, have been as follows :

RECEIPTS.

Certificates	\$ 2,636 00
Dues	11,373 25
Fees	1,640 25
Dispensations	270 00
Constitutions.....	397 25
Warrants	110 00
Commutations of annual Dues	530 00
Past Masters' Certificates.....	9 00
Asylum Fund Interest.....	448 00
General Fund Interest.....	3,290 32
Miscellaneous.....	124 75

EXPENDITURE.

Salary of Grand Secretary	\$ 2,000 00
Salary of Grand Secretary's Assistant..	800 00
Salary of Grand Treasurer	200 00
Salary of Stenographer.....	300 00
Rent of Grand Secretary's Office....	175 00
Grand Secretary, balance for incidentals to 31st May, 1896 .	94 09
Grand Secretary, advance for incidentals	500 00
Expenses Board of General Purposes.	1,074 30
Expenses of the meeting of Grand Lodge at Belleville.....	171 25
Committee on Foreign Correspondence....	100 00
The Copp, Clark Co., for printing certificates, etc.....	200 25
The Spectator Printing Co'y, on account of printing.....	1,086 02
J. Eastwood & Co'y, for stationery.....	74 39
Premium on Grand Secretary's Bond .	50 00
Insurance on Grand Lodge regalia.....	17 50
Masonic Relief Association, United States and Canada...	115 00
Expenses of Committee on Masonic Asylum	47 50
Chairman of Committee on Benevolence, for postage, etc....	30 00
Expenses of benevolence investigation.	490 90
Testimonial, to M. W. Bro. W. R. White.	300 00

Carried forward\$20,828 82

Carried forward.....\$7,826 20

<i>Brought forward</i>	\$20,828 82	<i>Brought forward</i>	\$7,826 20
<hr/>		Grand Master's annual allowance for expenses	500 00
		The Howell Lithographing Co'y, for cheque books	32 00
		Furniture letter-case etc., for Grand Secretary's Office ...	49 83
		Orders on the Fund of Benevolence....	9,205 00
<hr/>		<hr/>	
\$20,828 82		\$17,613 03	

ESPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

By direction of the M. W. the Grand Master, Especial Communications of Grand Lodge were called as follows, viz.:

On the 4th of August, 1896, at the Village of Chesley, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of Holy Trinity Church (Anglican), M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, Grand Master, officiating.

On the 24th of August, 1896, at the Village of Gananoque, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of Grace Church (Methodist), M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, Grand Master, officiating.

DEDICATIONS.

By instruction of the M. W., the Grand Master, the following halls have been dedicated for Craft purposes since the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, viz.:

Algonquin Lodge, No. 434, Emsdale, on the 14th August, 1896.

Burns Lodge, No. 436, Hepworth, on the 25th August, 1896.

Harmony Lodge, No. 438, Toronto, on the 28th September, 1896.

Havelock Lodge, No. 435, Havelock, on the 16th October, 1896.

Tuscan Lodge, No. 437, Sarnia, on the 4th November, 1896.

Waterdown Lodge, No. 357, Millgrove, on the 12th January, 1897.

Naphtali Lodge, No. 413, Tilbury, on the 28th May, 1897.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

The following dispensations for new lodges have been issued:

1896, August 11th...Westport Lodge, Westport Frontenac District.
 1897, January 7th...Dyment Lodge, Thessalon Algoma District.
 1897, May 28th.....Powassen, Lodge, Powassen Nipissing District.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

Upon the recommendation of the M. W., the Grand Master, R. W. Bro. R. B. Hungerford, of London, has been re-appointed representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, for a term of three years, ending 1st of January, 1900.

Upon the recommendation of the M. W., the Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Wm. Rea, of Ottawa, has been appointed representative of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, in place of R. W. Bro. P. J. Brown, deceased.

LODGE BY-LAWS.

The M. W., the Grand Master, has examined, revised and confirmed the By-laws of the following lodges, viz :

October 6th, 1896.....	Rising Sun Lodge,	No. 85, Athens.
December 5th, 1896..	Tuscan Lodge,	" 437, Sarnia.
December 10th, 1896..	Tecumseh Lodge,	" 144, Stratford.
December 10th, 1896..	Scott Lodge,	" 421, Grand Valley
January 7th, 1897....	Caledonian Lodge,	" 249, Midland.
January 7th, 1897.....	Havelock Lodge,	" 435, Havelock.
February 2nd, 1897....	Forest Lodge,	" 263, Forest.
February 9th, 1897....	Seven Star Lodge,	" 285, Alliston.
February 24th, 1897....	Harmony Lodge,	" 438, Toronto.
April 15th, 1897.....	Zeta Lodge,	" 410, Toronto.

The M. W., the Grand Master, has examined, revised and confirmed amendments to the By-laws of the following lodges, viz :

July 22nd, 1896.....	Howard Lodge,	No. 391, Ridgetown.
September 11th, 1896...	Keewatin Lodge,	" 417, Keewatin Mills.
September 17th, 1896...	Leamington Lodge,	" 290, Leamington.
November 11th, 1896...	Wingham Lodge,	" 286, Wingham.
November 20th, 1896....	Victoria Lodge,	" 56, Sarnia.
January 16th, 1897.....	Minden Lodge,	" 253, Kingston.
February 3rd, 1897.....	Amity Lodge,	" 32, Dunnville.
February 3rd 1897....	Palmer Lodge,	" 372, Victoria.
February 23rd, 1897...	Georgina Lodge,	" 343, Toronto.
February 27th, 1897....	The Builders Lodge,	" 177, Ottawa.
April 29th, 1897.....	Stanley Lodge,	" 426, Toronto Junc.
May 4th, 1897	Wellington Lodge,	" 46, Chatham.
May 14th, 1897	Dalhousie Lodge,	" 52, Ottawa.
June 8th, 1897	Wellington Lodge,	" 46, Chatham.
June 9th, 1897	Fidelity Lodge,	" 231, Ottawa.
June 16th, 1897.....	Shuniah Lodge,	" 287, Port Arthur.
July 6th, 1897	St. George's Lodge,	" 367, Toronto.
July 16th, 1897.....	Kerr Lodge,	" 230, Barrie.
July 12th, 1897.....	Rehoboam Lodge,	" 65, Toronto.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have issued, by instruction of the M. W. the Grand Master, the following dispensations, viz.:

DATE.	NO. OF LODGE.	NAME OF LODGE.	WHERE HELD.	FOR WHAT GRANTED.
July 30, 1896	354	Brook..	Cannington.....	To Attend Divine Service.
Aug. 4, " "	157	Simpson.....	Newboro'.....	" Install Officers.
" 12, " "	186	Plantagenet.....	Plantagenet	" Attend Divine Service.
" 22, " "	419	Bismarck.....	Point Edward.....	" Install W. M.
Sept. 22, " "	343	Georgina	Toronto	" Change Day of Regular Meeting.
Oct. 2, " "	326	Zetland	Toronto	" Change Time of Opening Meeting.
Nov. 21, " "	326	Zetland	Toronto	" Change Time of Opening Meeting.
" 30, " "	40	St. John's	Hamilton	" Pass and Raise a Brother in short time.
Dec. 4, " "	410	Zeta	Toronto	" Attend Divine Service.
" 8, " "	287	Shuniah.....	Port Arthur	" Attend Divine Service.
" 9, " "	361	Waverly	Guelph	" Install Divine Service.
" 10, " "	381	Alpha	Toronto	" Install Officers.
" 18, " "	376	Unity	Huntsville.....	" Install Officers.
" 18, " "	428	Fidelity	Port Perry.....	" Attend an At Home.
" 18, " "	84	Clinton.....	Clinton	" Elect Officers.
" 18, " "	133	Lebanon.....	Exeter	" Attend an At Home.
" 19, " "	392	Huron.....	Camlachie	" To Install Officers.
" 21, " "	339	Orient.....	Toronto	" Change Day of Regular Meeting.
" 21, " "	96	Corinthian.....	Barrie	" Change Day of Regular Meeting.
" 21, " "	352	Granite.....	Parry Sound	" Install Officers.
" 16, " "	409	Golden Rule.....	Gravenhurst.....	" Install Officers.
" 16, " "	30	Composite.....	Whitby	" Install Officers.
" 22, " "	400	Oakville.....	Oakville	" Install Officers.

DISPENSATIONS.—Continued.

DATE.	No. OF LODGE.	NAME OF LODGE.	WHERE HELD.	FOR WHAT GRANTED.
Dec.	22, 1896..	Vittoria	Vittoria	To Install Officers.
"	22, " "	Plantagenet.....	Plantagenet	" Elect Officers.
"	24, " "	Strict Observance.....	Hamilton	" Attend Divine Service.
"	24, " "	Blackwood.....	Woodbridge	" Install Officers.
"	24, " "	Ivy.....	Beamsville	" Install Officers.
"	24, " "	Petrolia	Petrolia	" Install Officers.
"	26, " "	Marmora	Marmora	" Install Officers.
"	24, " "	Zetland	Toronto	" Change Day of Regular Meeting.
"	28, " "	Speed	Guelph	" Change Day of Regular Meeting.
"	28, " "	Nilestown	Nilestown	" Attend an At Home.
"	28, " "	Great Western.....	Windsor.....	" Install Officers.
"	24, " "	Fort William	Fort William	" Install in Another Lodge.
"	30, " "	Georgian	Penetang	" Install Officers.
"	22, " "	St. James	Maitland	" Install Officers.
"	23, " "	Cornwall	Cornwall	" Install Officers.
Jan.	2, 1897..	Howard	Ridgetown.....	" Elect and Install Officers.
"	2, " "	Central	Essex	" Install Officers.
"	4, " "	Pnyx	Wallaceburg.....	" Install Officers.
"	6, " "	The Tuscan	London	" Install Officers.
"	7, " "	Dymont	Thessalon	" Open New Lodge.
"	7, " "	Windsor.....	Windsor.....	" Install Officers.
"	8, " "	Wilson	Waterford	" Install Officers.
"	8, " "	Orona	Orono	" Install Officers.
"	9, " "	Farran's Point.....	Farran's Point.....	" Install Officers.
"	9, " "	Rising Sun.....	Athens	" Install Officers.

DISPENSATIONS.—Continued.

DATE.	No. OF LODGE.	NAME OF LODGE.	WHEN HELD.	FOR WHAT GRANTED.
Jan. 9, 1897..	396	Cedar	Warton	To Elect and Install Officers.
" 11, " ..	186	Plantagenet	Plantagenet	" Install Officers.
" 12, " ..	242	Macey	Mallorytown	" Install Officers.
" 12, " ..	435	Havelock	Havelock	" Elect and Install Officers.
" 13, " ..	147	Mississippi	Almonte	" Install Officers.
" 14, " ..	430	Acacia	East Toronto	" Attend an At Home.
" 15, " ..	277	Seymour	Port Dalhousie	" Attend a Masonic Assembly.
" 18, " ..	357	Waterdown	Millgrove.. ..	" Elect and Install Officers.
" 18, " ..	90	Manito	Collingwood	" Attend an At Home.
" 20, " ..	193	Scotland	Scotland	" Initiate Out of Jurisdiction.
" 23, " ..	141	Craig	Deseronto	" Attend an " At Home."
" 22, " ..	343	Georgina ..	Toronto	" Attend an " At Home."
" 24, " ..	65	Rehoboam	"	" Attend a Re-union.
" 29, " ..	326	Zetland	"	" Change Day of Regular Meeting.
" 29, " ..	326	Zetland	"	" Attend an " At Home."
Feb. 9, " ..	323	Alvinston ..	Alvinston ..	" Install Officers.
" 11, " ..	133	Lebanon	Exeter	" Install Officers.
" 17, " ..	186	Plantagenet	Plantagenet	" Initiate a Serving Brother (Tyler.)
" 17, " ..	384	Alpha	Toronto	" Attend an " At Home."
Mar. 17, " ..	295	Conestogo ..	Drayton... ..	" Attend an " At Home."
Apl. 20, " ..	346	Occident	Toronto	" Attend an " At Home."
May 4, " ..	361	Waverley	Guelph	" Change Day of Regular Meeting
" 4, " ..	U. D.	Alexandria ..	Alexandria ..	" Initiate Out of Jurisdiction.
" 17, " ..	438	Harmony	Toronto	" Initiate Out of Jurisdiction.
" 18, " ..	425	St. Clair	Sombra	" Attend Divine Service.

DISPENSATIONS.—Continued.

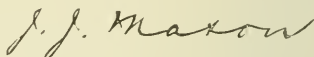
DATE.	No. of LODGE.	NAME OF LODGE.	WHEN HELD.	FOR WHAT GRANTED.
May 18, 1897	230	Kerr	Barrie	To Change Day of Regular Meeting.
" 25, "	332	Stratford	Stratford	" Initiate Out of Jurisdiction.
" 28, "	U. D.	Powassen	Powassen	" Open New Lodge.
June 4, "	217	Ashlar	Toronto	" Change Night of Meeting for June.
" 8, "	235	Aldworth	Paisley	" Decorate Graves of Deceased Brethren.
" 9, "	25	Ionic	Toronto	" Change Night of Meeting for July.
" 9, "	343	Georgina	"	" Change Night of Meeting for June.
" 12, "	129	The Rising Sun	Aurora	" Attend Divine Service.
" 14, "	135	St. Clair	Milton	" Attend Divine Service.
" 14, "	222	Marmora	Marmora	" Attend Divine Service.
" 14, "	65	Rehoboam	Toronto	" Change Night of Meeting for July.
" 12, "	356	River Park	Streetsville	" Attend Divine Service.
" 19, "	287	Shuniah	Port Arthur	" Attend Divine Service.
" 19, "	438	Harmony	Toronto	" Attend Divine Service.
" 21, "	435	Havelock	Havelock	" Attend Divine Service.
" 23, "	368	Salem	Brookville	" Attend Divine Service.
" 23, "	352	Granite	Parry Sound	" Attend Divine Service.
" 26, "	300	Mount Olivet	Thorndale	" Attend Divine Service.
" 26, "	6	Barbon	Hamilton	" Attend Divine Service.
" 28, "	431	Moravian	Eden Grove	" Install Officers.
July 6, "	250	Thistle	Embro	" Elect and Install
" 10, "	62	St. Andrews	Caledonia	" Attend Divine Service.

Having been offered, and with the kind permission of the M. W. the Grand Master, accepted the position of Commandant of the Bisley Rifle Team, I will for the first time in twenty-eight years, be absent from the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge

At the Grand Master's request, M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray has kindly consented to act as Grand Secretary pro tem., and he will be assisted by R. W. Bro. R. L. Gunn.

I regret very much that I will not be at my accustomed post, but I trust that the reason for my absence will commend itself to my brethren of Grand Lodge, and that they will, under the circumstances, readily ratify the action of the M. W. the Grand Master. Though absent in the body, I will be present in the spirit with them during their deliberations, which I feel assured will be as usual—pleasant and profitable.

Fraternally submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. J. Maxon". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "J".

HAMILTON, July, 1897.

Grand Secretary.

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

*To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the
the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of
Ontario.*

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I herewith submit a Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of Grand Lodge, for the year ending 31st May, 1897.

The balance at the credit of the Current Account in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, on the 1st of July, 1896, was	\$10,986 38
During the year I have received from the Grand Secretary the following sums, viz.:	
On account of General Fund	20,380 82
On account of the Asylum Fund.....	448 00
	<hr/>
	\$31,815 20

The expenditure for general purposes during the year was...	\$8,408 03
For benevolence	9,205 00
	<hr/>
	17,613 03

Balance in Canadian Bank of Commerce, May 31, 1897. \$14,202 17

The attached balance sheet shows the amounts at the credit of the General Fund and the Asylum Fund, respectively, on the 31st day of May, 1897, and the sums invested in the respective companies, with the rates of interest.

All the debentures are in the custody of the Canadian Bank of Commerce for safe keeping.

STATEMENT—GENERAL FUND.

*The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Canada,
in the Province of Ontario, in account with BRO. HUGH MURRAY,
Grand Treasurer.*

DISBURSEMENTS.

1896.

June 30—	Paid Expenses of Committee on Masonic Asylum.	\$ 19 50
" 30—	" R. W. Bro. J. E. Harding, postage re Benevolent Fund.....	15 00
" 30—	" Grand Secretary, salary to date	400 00
" 30—	" Assistant to Grand Secretary, salary to date	200 00
" 30—	" Grand Treasurer, salary to date	50 00
" 30—	" Stenographer, salary to date.....	75 00
July 31—	" Expenses Board of General Purposes at Belleville	1074 30
" 31—	" General Masonic Relief Association Annual Subscription	115 00
" 31—	" J. G. Cheyne, book case, Grand Secretary's Office	27 35
" 31—	" Grand Secretary, balance of incidentals, to 31st May, 1896	94 09
" 31—	" Grand Secretary, advance for incidentals ...	500 00
" 31—	" Spectator Printing Co., balance of account to May 28, 1896	86 02
" 31—	" J. Eastwood & Co., for stationary.....	74 39
" 31—	" Copp, Clark Co., printing certificates, etc...	200 25
" 31—	" M. W. Bro. Robertson, report on Foreign Correspondence.....	100 00
" 31—	" The Howell Lith. Co., for cheque books	32 00
" 31—	" Grand Secretary, sundry expenses Grand Lodge meeting at Belleville	171 25
" 31—	" R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon, an account Benevolent Investigation	200 00
Sept. 20—	" M. W. Bro. W. R. White, allowance for travelling expenses	500 00
" 30—	" R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon on account Benevolent Investigation ...	100 00
" 30—	" Premium on Grand Secretary's guarantee bond	50 00
" 30—	" R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon, on account Benevolent Investigation	100 00
" 30—	" Grand Secretary, salary to date.....	600 00
" 30—	" Assistant to Grand Secretary, salary to date	200 00
" 30—	" Grand Treasurer, salary to date	50 00
" 30—	" Stenographer, salary to date.....	75 00
Oct. 31—	" Masonic Hall Association, rent to 31st March, 1897	175 00

Oct. 31—	Paid R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon, on account Benevolent Investigation	\$ 50 00
“ 31—	“ Expenses of Committee on Masonic Asylum	21 50
Nov. 30—	“ R. W. Bro. J. B. Nixon, balance re Benevolent Investigation	40 90
Dec. 31—	“ Grand Secretary, salary to date	500 00
“ 31—	“ Assistant to Grand Secretary, salary to date	200 00
“ 31—	“ Grand Treasurer, salary to date	50 00
“ 31—	“ Stenographer, salary to date	75 00
1897.		
Feb. 28—	“ R. W. Bro. J. E. Harding, postage re Benevolence	15 00
“ 28—	“ R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, for testimonial to M. W. Bro. W. R. White	300 00
“ 28—	“ J. G. Cheyne, letter-case and repairs to Grand Secretary's Office	22 48
May 31—	“ Grand Secretary, salary to date	500 00
“ 31—	“ Assistant to Grand Secretary, salary to date	200 00
“ 31—	“ Grand Treasurer, salary to date	50 00
“ 31—	“ Stenographer, salary to date	75 00
April 30—	“ Expenses of Committee on Masonic Asylum	6 50
“ 30—	“ Manchester Assurance Co., Insurance on Regalia	17 50
“ 30—	“ Spectator Printing Co., on account of Printing	1,000 00
May 31—	“ Benevolent orders as per list	9,205 00
“ 31—	“ Balance as per balance sheet	79,332 42
		<hr/>
		\$96,945 45

1896.

RECEIPTS.

June 1—	Balance as per Balance Sheet	\$76,564 63
July 10—	By Grand Secretary	6,000 00
Nov. 30—	By Grand Secretary, interest on bank account	144 57
Dec. 31—	By Grand Secretary	3,500 00
1897.		
Jan. 30—	By Grand Secretary	2,500 00
Mar. 31—	By Grand Secretary	2,000 00
Apl. 30—	By Grand Secretary	800 00
May 28—	By Grand Secretary	3,000 00
May 31—	By Grand Secretary, interest on bank account	118 75
May 31—	By Grand Secretary	2,317 50
		<hr/>
		\$96,945 45

1896.

STATEMENT—ASYLUM FUND.

May 31—	By balance as per balance sheet	\$14,421 75
1897.		
May 31—	By Grand Secretary	448 00
		<hr/>
		\$14,869 75

Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

BALANCE SHEET, MAY 31ST, 1897.

DEBENTURES—		General Fund	\$79,332 42
		Asylum Fund.....	14,869 75
The British Canadian Loan and In. Co., at 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ %		\$15,000 00	
The Huron & Erie Loan & Savings Co. at 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ %		15,000 00	
The Western Canada Loan & Savings Co., at 4 %		10,000 00	
The Canada Permanent Loan & Savings Co., at 4 %		10,000 00	
The Landed Banking & Loan Co., at 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ %		10,000 00	
The Landed Banking & Loan Co., at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %		5,000 00	
The Ontario Loan & Debenture Co., at 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ %		5,000 00	
The Canadian Savings & Loan Co., at 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ %		5,000 00	
The Owen Sound, Grey & Bruce Loan Co., at 5 %		5,000 00	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$80,000 00	
CURRENT ACCOUNT—			
Balance in Canadian Bank of Commerce		\$14,202 17	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$94,202 17	

We certify that the debentures named and set forth in the above Balance Sheet are in custody of the Bank for safe keeping, and that the above mentioned balance, \$14,202.17, was at the credit of the current account of the Grand Lodge at the close of business on the 1st June, 1897.

(Signed)

WM. ROBERTS, Manager

D. MACGILLIVRAY, Accountant,

Canadian Bank of Commerce

PAYMENTS BY THE GRAND TREASURER ON ACCOUNT OF BENEVOLENCE.

June 1896.	Aug. 1896.
30 Mrs. W. F. Jennings. \$15 00	31 Bro. Edmund Hill... 25 00
30 Mrs. Geo. Grant... 10 00	31 Mrs. Chas. Hess..... 10 00
30 Mrs. S. H. Blondheim 15 00	31 Mrs. James Allen ... 10 00
30 Miss Mary M. Harris 18 75	31 Mrs. Geo. T. Porter.. 15 00
July.	31 Mrs. John Harvey... 15 00
31 Miss Mary Wilson... 75 00	31 Mrs. Seymour Porter. 10 00
31 Mrs. W. M. Wilson.. 37 50	31 Mrs. D. G. Huff ... 15 00
August	31 Mrs. L. G. Jolliffe... 10 00
31 Mrs. J. M. Conroy... 20 00	31 Bro. Andrew McLinn 25 00
31 Mrs. Robt. Carey..... 15 00	31 Mrs. Geo. Christie... 10 00
31 Bro. Arch'd Couper.. 25 00	31 Mrs. Thos. J. Johnston 20 00
31 Mrs. J. O. Angell.... 20 00	31 Mrs. Wm. Wilkinson. 20 00
31 Mrs. Peter Patterson. 10 00	31 Mrs. Robt. E. Harrison 15 00
31 Bro. John Scott ... 25 00	31 Bro. John C. Williams 25 00
31 Bro. Thos. H. Butler. 25 00	31 Mrs. Erastus Pester. 15 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Coulter... 10 00	31 Mrs. John Wells... 20 00
31 Mrs. Thos. G. Shaw.. 10 00	31 Mrs. Albert R. Paul.. 20 00
31 Bro. Thos. R. Wood.. 25 00	31 Mrs. Thos. Vesey... 15 00
31 Mrs. M. F. Haney... 15 00	31 Daughter of R. H. Lee 10 00
31 Sec. Treas. B. of R.	31 Mrs. Jos. Metherell... 10 00
London 12 50	31 Mrs. Henry Hall 10 00
31 Mrs. Robt. Marcus... 10 00	31 Mrs. Henry Richard-
31 Bro. Jas. Smith 25 00	son 10 00
31 Mrs. John T. Gurnett 20 00	31 Mrs. John Vaux..... 15 00
31 Mrs. Alfred Goldsmith 15 00	31 Mrs. Jas. Filton ... 10 00
31 Mrs. Edward A. Mar-	31 Mrs. David Gardiner 10 00
tin 15 00	31 Bro. C. W. Wilmot.. 25 00
31 Mrs. James Rogers... 5 00	31 Orphan of J. A. Blott 10 00
31 Bro. L. W. Whitney.. 25 00	31 Mrs. Chas. Bennett.. 20 00
31 Mrs. J. R. L. Smith.. 15 00	31 Mrs. Arthur Lloyd.. 20 00
31 Mrs. Richard Phillips 15 00	31 Mrs. Geo. W. Shields 15 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Jolley..... 10 00	31 Bro. C. R. Barker.... 25 00
31 Mrs. Samuel N. Phoe-	31 Bro. John Munro.... 25 00
nix..... 15 00	31 Mrs. Wm. Marriott.. 10 00
31 Mrs. Robt. C. Carter. 15 00	31 Mrs. Jas. H. Nixon.. 15 00
31 Daughters of J. G.	31 Mrs. Walter McKay.. 10 00
Burus..... \$15 00	31 Mrs. F. W. Cooke.... 15 00
31 Bro. A. C. Coombs.. 25 00	31 Mrs. Chas. W. Noble 20 00
31 Mrs. T. D. Harington 20 00	31 Mrs. R. A. Kirby.... 10 00
31 Mrs. Sam. McCullough 10 00	31 Mrs. W. H. Street.... 10 00
31 Mrs. Jas. H. Wright. 10 00	31 Mrs. Jacob Le Clair.. 10 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Sharp.... 10 00	31 Mrs. John Pigott... 15 00
31 Mrs. John Kennedy. 10 00	31 Mrs. John Evans.... 15 00
31 Mrs. John A. McInnes 10 00	31 Bro. Henry Newton.. 25 00
31 Bro. Jas. W. Crate... 25 00	31 Bro. Phil. Meyers.... 20 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Haskin's.. 10 00	31 Bro. Robt. McGregor 50 00
31 Mrs. John Manning.. 15 00	31 Sec. Treas. B. of R.
31 Mrs. Joshua Parker.. 15 00	Guelph..... 12 50
31 Mrs. Geo. R. Young.. 10 00	31 Mrs. Albert Stairs ... 10 00
31 Bro. Jas. Sullivan.. 25 00	31 Bro. Fred. Devereaux 25 00

August	1896.
31 Bro. H. A. Wetherell.	25 00
31 Bro. J. C. Wood.....	25 00
31 Mrs. Robt. Davis....	20 00
31 Mrs. N. H. Smith ...	15 00
31 Mrs. J. L. Strowger..	15 00
31 Thos. G. Westcott ...	15 00
31 Mrs. Geo. L. Eccleson	10 00
31 Mrs. Walter Francis .	10 00
31 Mrs. William Ramsay	20 00
31 Mrs. Geo. Sutton	10 00
31 Mrs. Jas. McGibbeny.	10 00
31 Mrs. Rich'd Radcliffe.	15 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Wakefield..	20 00
31 Mrs. John J. Field....	15 00
31 Mrs. Wm. J. Smyth....	10 00
31 Bro. Joseph Blackburn	25 00
31 Daughter of R. J. McAuslan.....	15 00
31 Mrs. Warren Davies..	10 00
31 Bro. Findlay McEdwards.....	25 00
31 Sec. Treas. B. of R. Kingston.....	10 00
31 Mrs. John Munro ...	10 00
31 Mrs. W. J. Armiel....	20 00
31 Orphans of Thomas Palmer	20 00
31 Mrs. W. J. Palmer....	10 00
31 Mrs. Andrew Milne..	15 00
31 Mrs. L. Gehoguelte ..	10 00
31 Mrs. Geo. Walker....	15 00
31 Mrs. Anthony Davy .	15 00
31 Mrs. Duncan Robertson	10 00
31 Mrs. Adam Petrie ...	10 00
31 Mrs. A. H. McPherson	10 00
31 Mrs. John Jackson...	10 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Mills....	20 00
31 Bro. Russell S. Warner	25 00
31 Daughter of Brother Clarke, Guelph.....	10 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Johnson..	10 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Corner .	10 00
31 Sec. Treas. B. of R. Barrie	25 00
31 Mrs. Aaron Bowman..	20 00
31 Mrs. Alex. Miller....	20 00
31 Mrs. Elisha Saunders	15 00
31 Mrs. John Weir....	10 00
31 Mrs. Thos. McCLawrence .	10 00
31 Mrs. Thos. Elliot .	10 00
31 Children of Philip H. Varney	15 00
31 Sec. Treas. B. of R. Ottawa.....	12 50

August	1896.
31 Bro. John E. Edwards	25 00
31 Mrs. W. A. Harvey..	10 00
31 Mrs. Thos. Brock....	10 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Leany....	10 00
31 Bro. Alex. Bain.....	25 00
31 Mrs. Wm. N. Hunter	20 00
31 Mrs. McNeil Clarke..	10 00
31 Mrs. Peter Grant....	10 00
31 Mrs. Geo. B. Gray...	10 00
31 Bro. Edward McNally	25 00
31 Mrs. David Robertson	10 00
31 Mrs. McKee Conklin.	15 00
31 Bro. Robt. Farquharson	25 00
31 Mrs. Alex. J. Short..	20 00
31 Mrs. John Thompson	10 00
31 Mrs. David Ross ...	15 00
31 Daughter of Jno. Drew	25 00
31 Mrs. John Courtney..	20 00
31 Mrs. Samuel Stevenson	10 00
31 Mrs. J. K. Oliver.....	10 00
31 Orphans of Angus A. Ross .	20 00
31 Mrs. Ronald Campbell	15 00
31 Mrs. John C. Hollister	10 00
31 Mrs. Arch. Graham..	15 00
31 Mrs. Chas. Graham.	15 00
31 Mrs. Jas. McKellican	15 00
September	
30 Mrs. Michael Cronin..	20 00
30 Mrs. Peter R. Davey.	15 00
30 Mrs. Geo. Godfrey....	15 00
30 Mrs. John Hodgson .	20 00
30 Mrs. Stephen Townsend	15 00
30 Mrs. Thos. Armson..	10 00
30 Mrs. Wm. McBurney	20 00
30 Mrs. Jas. Woodrow..	10 00
30 Mrs. Thos. G. Hurst.	10 00
30 Bro. Amassa Lewis..	25 00
30 Mrs. James Miller...	15 00
30 Mrs. R. A. Sinclair .	10 00
30 Orphan of Malcolm McPhail ..	10 00
30 Mrs. W. H. Matthews	10 00
30 Orphans of John Leitch	15 00
30 Mrs. Angus Campbell	15 00
30 Mrs. D. L. Comins...	10 00
30 Mrs. Robert Gibson .	10 00
30 Daughter of J. R. Steele	20 00
30 Daughter of Francis Covel	7 50
30 Daughter of Francis Covel ..	7 50
30 Mrs. Richad Flodd...	20 00

Sept.	1896.	October	1896.
30	Mrs. A. S. Lloyd.... 15 00	31	Miss Mary Wilson.... 75 00
30	Mrs. H. L. Kifner.... 10 00	31	Mrs. C. E. Black..... 10 00
30	Mrs. John Zimmerman 10 00	31	Mrs. Thos. Cuthbert-
30	Mrs. E. W. King 20 00		son..... 15 00
30	Mrs. James Hortop 10 00	31	Mrs. James Wright.. 20 00
30	Mrs. James Middleton 10 00	31	Mrs. John Pattison... 10 00
30	Mother of John B.	31	Mrs. John E. Jorgenson 20 00
	Cummings 15 00	31	Mrs. Wm. Wilson.... 37 50
30	Mrs. Joseph Chantler 10 00	31	Miss Mary Lockerty.. 20 00
30	Mrs. John Rome 10 00	31	Daughter of Sir R. H.
30	Bro. Edward Green... 25 00		Bonnycastle 15 00
30	Mrs. Thos. S. Agar... 10 00	31	Mrs. John Wright.... 10 00
30	Mrs. Walter Holmwood 20 00	31	Mrs. W. B. Wallace.. 10 00
30	Mrs. J. L. Young ... 10 00	31	Mrs. John Tremeer.. 10 00
30	Mrs. David Small ... 20 00	31	Bro. John Morgan... 25 00
30	Mrs. W. W. Tuttle... 10 00	31	Mrs. John Scott..... 15 00
30	Mrs. Andrew Graham 10 00	31	Mrs. Wm. Widgery... 10 00
30	Bro. John Chaseley . 25 00	31	Mrs. Jas. Greenfield.. 10 00
30	Mrs. David Wilson . 10 00	31	Bro. Daniel McNabb. 25 00
30	Mrs. A. A. Hind 20 00	31	Mrs. Henry Hamill.. 20 00
30	Bro. J. A. de La Hooke 25 00	31	Mrs. Adam Armstrong 15 00
30	Mrs. John Kingstone. 10 00	31	Mrs. W. B. Simpson . 100 00
30	Mrs. Thos. Stethan.. 10 00	31	Mrs. Samuel Redpath 15 00
30	Mrs. John Dixon..... 25 00	31	Mrs. Alex. Baptie.... 10 00
30	Mrs. James Sutherland 20 00	31	Mrs. J. Robert Young 10 00
30	Mrs. M. G. Vander-	31	Mrs. S. Latimer..... 20 00
	voort..... 10 00	31	Mrs. Wm. P. Lackie. 15 00
30	Bro. Ed. D. McLaugh-	31	Bro. Jas. Conron sr.. 25 00
	lan..... 20 00	31	Mrs. Geo. Goslie.... 5 00
30	Mrs. Wm Agnew.... 20 00	November	
30	Mrs. John McDonald. 20 00	30	Mrs. Jas. Young..... 15 00
30	Mrs. Geo. Hampton... 10 00	30	Mrs. Wm. Quigley . 10 00
30	Daughter of Stephen	30	Mrs. Douglas McLellan 10 00
	Smith. 20 00	30	Mrs. Andrew Kellock. 15 00
30	Mrs. William Johnston 20 00	30	Mrs. Walker Holmwood 20 00
30	Orphans of Wm. Kerr 10 00	30	Mrs. Wm. Scott 10 00
30	Bro. R. H. Hall 25 00	30	Mrs. G. H. Rowed... 15 00
30	Mrs. William Ross .. 15 00	30	Bro. R. Farguharson.. 25 00
30	Mrs. John G. Jorgen-	30	Daughter of Samuel..
	son..... 20 00		V. Perry 20 00
30	Mrs. Richard Hall.. 10 00	30	Mrs. James Allen... 10 00
30	Mrs. W. F. Livingston 5 00	30	Mrs. R. W. Gorsline.. 20 00
30	Mrs. Samuel H. McCoy 20 00	30	Mrs. T. Dinsmore ... 15 00
30	Mrs. D. J. Bridgeford 15 00	30	Mrs. Walter Webb... 15 00
30	Mrs. W. F. Jennings.. 15 00	30	Orphans of John Jen-
30	Mrs. W. A. Fowler... 20 00		kins 20 00
October		30	Mrs. James C. Bogart 10 00
31	Mrs. Wm. Wilson ... 15 00	30	Henry Leirsch..... 10 00
31	Bro. Jos. Carswell... 25 00	30	Mrs. Wm. B. Buscard 10 00
31	Bro. Walter Hume .. 25 00	30	Bro James Bowman.. 25 00
31	Mrs. F. E. Elkingdon. 10 00	30	Mrs. Geo. Grant.... 10 00
31	Bro. Ira C. Warner... 25 00	30	Mrs. Wm. Leaney... 15 00
31	Mrs. J. E. Bailey.... 10 00	30	Mrs. James Hagerman 10 00
31	Mrs. W. H. Ponton... 20 00	30	Mrs. John Hislop.... 10 00
31	Miss Mary M. Harris 18 75	December	
31	Mrs. L. H. Blondheim 15 00	31	Mrs. W. C. Johnson . 10 00

Dec. 1896	Feb. 1897.
31 Mrs. Jno. B. Richards 20 00	28 Mrs. John Thompson. 10 00
31 Mrs. John Best..... 10 00	28 Mrs. John W. McDon-
31 Bro. Edward Green.. 25 00	ald..... 20 00
31 Mrs. Geo. H. Bailie.. 20 00	28 Mrs. R. A. Kirby 10 00
31 Mrs. Fred. Bailey.... 15 00	28 Mrs. Albert R. Paul.. 20 00
January	28 Bro James Conron.. 25 00
31 Mrs. Peter Spence... 15 00	28 Sect'y Treas. B. of R.
31 Mrs. Jas. A. Malcolm 10 00	Barrie 25 00
31 Mrs. Fred. Stafford.. 10 00	28 Mrs. John Gremier .. 10 00
31 Mrs. Leslie Wright.. 20 00	28 Mrs. F. W. Corke.... 15 00
31 Mrs. W. M. Wilson... 37 50	28 Mrs. C. E. S. Black.. 10 00
31 Mary M. Harris..... 18 75	28 Mrs. Richard Flood.. 20 00
31 Mary Wilson..... 75 00	28 Mrs. J. L. Strowger.. 15 00
31 Mrs. John Kennedy.. 10 00	28 Mrs. A. H. McPherson 10 00
31 Bro. Thos. H. Butler 25 00	28 Mrs. James M Conroy 20 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Sharp.... 10 00	28 Mrs. Wm. Quigley... 10 00
31 Bro. Edmund Hill.. 25 00	28 Mrs. D. McLellan... 10 00
31 Bro. John Dixon.... 25 00	28 Mrs. Henry Hall.... 10 00
31 Mrs. W. H. Ponton.. 20 00	28 Mrs. John A. McInns 10 00
31 Miss Mary Lackerty.. 20 00	28 Mrs Alfred Goldsmith 15 00
31 Bro. A. C. Coombs.. 25 00	28 Mrs. Robt. Gibson... 10 00
31 Bro. J. A. DeLaHooke 25 00	28 Mrs. Richard Radcliffe 15 00
31 Mrs. Geo. T. Porter.. 15 00	28 Mrs. Andrew Fellock 15 00
31 Mrs. Andrew Milne.. 15 00	28 Mrs. Geo. Sutton .. 10 00
31 Mrs. M. F. Haney.... 15 00	28 Mrs. J. R. E. Smith 15 00
31 Mrs. Arthur Lloyd.. 20 00	28 Mrs. Sam. McCullough 10 00
31 Bro. Jos. Carswell.. 25 00	28 Mrs. Robt. Carey . 15 00
31 Mrs. Jno Manning.. 15 00	28 Mrs. Thos. Courtney. 20 00
31 Mrs. Jno. T. Garnet.. 20 00	28 Mrs. John Willis ... 20 00
31 Mrs. Thos. Vesey.... 15 00	28 Mrs. Arch. Graham. 15 00
31 Mrs. W. Marriott .. 10 00	28 Mrs. Wm. Ross ... 15 00
31 Mrs. John Rome..... 10 00	28 Mrs. Wm. N. Hunter. 20 00
31 Mrs. John Kingston.. 10 00	28 Mrs. Robt. E. Harrison 15 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Wilkinson. 20 00	28 Mrs. Thos. J. Johnston 20 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Hoskins... 10 00	28 Mrs. W. A. Harvey.. 10 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Widgery .. 10 00	28 Mrs. Walter McKay.. 10 00
31 Mrs. Geo. W. Shields. 15 00	28 Mrs. Thos. G. Shaw.. 10 00
31 Mrs. Joshua Parker . 15 00	28 Bro. Jno. Munroe.... 25 00
31 Mrs. T. D. Harrington 20 00	28 Mrs. Robt. Davis... 20 00
31 Mrs. Edward A. Mar-	28 Mrs. M. G. Vandercort 10 00
tin .. 15 00	28 Bro. L. W. Whitney. 25 00
31 Bro. Arch'd Cooper.. 25 00	18 Mrs Robt. C. Carter.. 15 00
31 Mrs. Wm. Coulter... 10 00	28 Mrs. Jas. Miller 15 00
31 Mrs. Josh. Chanbler.. 10 00	28 Sec'y. Treas. B. of L.
February	London..... 12 50
28 Orphan daughter of	28 Bro. Fred Devereux.. 25 00
Francis Covell... 7 50	28 Mrs. Wm. Puscard .. 10 00
28 Orphan daughter of	28 Mrs. Chas. Bennett 20 00
Francis Covell..... 7 50	28 Mrs. Thos. Stethan... 10 00
28 Mrs. James Felton .. 10 00	28 Wm. P. Leckey... 15 00
28 Mrs. Thos. R. Wood.. 25 00	28 Bro. Donald McNab
28 Mrs. David Wilcox... 10 00	M. C. 25 00
28 Orphans of Angus A.	28 Mrs. A. A. Hind.... 20 00
Ross 20 00	28 Daughter of R. H.
28 Mrs. Samuel Redpath 15 00	Bonnycastle... 15 00
28 Bro. C. W. Wilmot... 25 00	28 Mrs. John Jackson .. 10 00

Feb. 1897.	Feb. 1897.
28 Mrs. Chas. Hess..... 10 00	28 Mrs. Geo. Godfrey... 15 00
28 Mrs. D. J. Bridgeford 15 00	28 Mrs. W. J. Arniel.... 20 00
28 Mrs. James Allen.... 10 00	28 Mrs. Thos. G. Hurst.. 10 00
28 Mrs. Geo. R. Young.. 10 00	28 Mrs. Wm. Johnston.. 20 00
28 Mrs. L. G. Jolliffe ... 10 00	28 Bro. John Chasely . 25 00
28 Mrs. Robt. Marcus... 10 00	28 Mrs. Jas. McKillican. 15 00
28 Mrs. John Schoebel.. 25 00	28 Orphans of Wm. Kerr 10 00
28 Mrs. W. B. Wallace.. 10 00	28 Mrs. Alex. Miller.... 20 00
28 Bro. James W. Crate. 25 00	28 Mrs. R. W. Gorsline.. 20 00
28 Bro. Jno. E. Edwards 25 00	28 Mrs. N. H. Smith... 15 00
28 Bro. E. D. McLaughlin 20 00	28 Mrs. Alex. J. Short.. 20 00
28 Mrs. Elisha Saunders 15 00	28 Sec'y. Treas. B. of L.
28 Mrs. Rich'd Hill..... 10 00	Ottawa 12 50
28 Mrs. James Woodrow 10 00	28 Mrs. Thos. Elliot.. 10 00
28 Bro. John C. Williams 25 00	28 Sec'y. Treas. B. of L.
28 Mrs. David Ross 15 00	Guelph..... 12 50
28 Bro. Amasa Lewis.... 25 00	28 Mrs. W. A. Fowler... 20 00
28 Daughter of Stephen	28 Mrs. Jno. Scott..... 15 00
Smith 20 00	28 Mrs. Anthony Davy. 15 00
28 Mrs. J. A. Angell 20 00	28 Mrs. Geo. Hampton.. 10 00
28 Mrs. Jas. Wetherell.. 10 00	28 Mrs. Chas Graham... 15 00
28 Mrs. Walter Webb . 15 00	28 Mrs. J. E. Bailey.... 10 00
28 Bro. Phylander Myers 20 00	28 Mrs. Sam'l. Stevenson 10 00
18 Mrs. Wm. Jolly..... 10 00	28 Mrs. D. G. Huff 15 00
28 Mrs. Wm. J. Smyth.. 10 00	28 Mrs. McNab Clarke . 10 00
28 Mrs. Wm. Wakefield. 20 00	28 Mrs. Jas. Hortop ... 10 00
28 Bro. Jas. Sullivan ... 25 00	28 Mrs. Sam'l M. Phoenix 15 00
28 Mrs. John J. Field .. 15 00	28 Mrs. Jas. Middleton . 10 00
28 Mrs. Richard Phillip. 15 00	28 Mrs. Wm. Mills . . 20 00
28 Daughter of Samuel	28 Mrs. Alex. Baptie.... 10 00
Perry ... 20 00	28 Bro J. C. Wood 25 00
28 Mrs. John Piggott .. 15 00	28 Mrs. Samuel H. McCoy 20 00
28 Mrs. Thos. M. C. Lawrence..... 10 00	28 Mrs. Seymour Porter. 10 00
28 Mrs. Geo. Christie.... 10 00	28 Mrs. Jno. Hodgson .. 20 00
28 Mrs. G. H. Rould ... 15 00	28 Mrs. J. F. Dunsmore. 15 00
28 Bro. H. A. Wetherell. 25 00	28 Mrs. Jas. H. Nixon.. 15 00
28 Bra. Jas. McGibbeny. 10 00	28 Mrs. L. G. Choquette 10 00
28 Mrs. Wm. Wilson 15 00	28 Bro. Russell S. Warner 25 00
28 Mrs. John Harvey... 15 00	28 Mrs. Jno. R. Richards 20 00
28 Bro. Robt. Farquhar-son . 25 00	28 Mrs. Adam Petrie... 10 00
28 Mrs. McKee Conplin. 15 00	28 Bro. Jno. Newton.... 25 00
28 Mrs. John Munro.... 10 00	28 Mrs. Wm. Ramsay .. 20 00
28 Orphans of Thomas	28 Orphan Daughter of
Palmer..... 20 00	R. J. McAuslan.... 15 00
28 Sec'y Treas. B of L.	28 Mrs. Jas. C. Bogart.. 10 00
Kingston.. 10 00	28 Mrs. Jacob Le Clair 10 00
28 Mrs. Geo. L. Eddlison 10 00	28 Orphan Daughter of
28 Bro. Edward Green.. 25 00	John Drew.. 25 00
28 Mrs. James Rogers... 5 00	28 Mrs. Jas. Greenfield.. 10 00
28 Bro. Andrew McLim. 25 00	28 Mrs. Wm. Agnew.... 20 00
28 Mrs. John Weir 10 00	28 Mrs. R. A. Sinclair .. 10 00
28 Mrs. James Allen.... 10 00	28 Mrs. Adam Armstrong 15 00
28 Bro. Jos. Blackburn. 25 00	28 Mrs. Arnold Campbell 15 00
28 Mrs. James Sutherland 20 00	28 Mrs. Henry Richard-son 10 00
	28 Bro. Jas. Bowman.... 25 00

Feb.	1897.	March	1897.
28	Mrs. Henry Larsch... 10 00	31	Mrs. Henry Hammill 20 00
28	Bro. Walter Hume... 25 00	31	Mrs. Jas. Wright.... 20 00
28	Agnes. S. Clarke.... 10 00	31	Mrs. Jno. C. Hollister 10 00
28	Mrs. John Evans 15 00	31	Mrs. A. S. Floyd 15 00
28	Mrs. John G. Westcott 15 00	31	Mrs. Thos. Armson.. 10 00
28	Bro. R. H. Hall 25 00	31	Mrs. Erastus Kister.. 15 00
28	Mrs. W. C. Johnston. 10 00	31	Mrs. J. L. Young . . 10 00
28	Mrs. James Young... 15 00	31	Mrs. D. L. Comins.. 10 00
28	Bro. Findlay McEd- wards..... 25 00	31	Mrs. F. Elkington.... 10 00
28	Mrs. Aaron Bowman. 20 00	31	Mrs. David Robertson 10 00
28	Mrs. Joseph Saagar.. 10 00	31	Daughters of J. G. Burns 15 00
28	Mrs. William Corner 10 00	31	Mrs. John Vaux..... 15 00
28	Mrs. Peter Grant.... 10 00	31	Mrs. Robt. Young.... 10 00
28	Mrs. David Small ... 20 00	31	Bro. Ira C. Warner .. 25 00
28	Bro. Alex. Bain 25 00	31	Mrs. Angus Campbell 15 00
28	Mrs. Geo. Goslie.... 5 00	31	Mrs. Frederick Bailey 15 00
28	Mrs. S. H. Blondheim 15 00	21	Mrs. Wm. Johnston.. 10 00
28	Mrs. John Wright ... 10 00	21	Mrs. Wm. McBurney. 20 00
28	Mrs. Jas. H. Wright.. 10 00	31	Mrs. John Best..... 10 00
28	Bro. John Scott 25 00	31	Mrs. Michael Cronin. 20 00
28	Mrs. Jno. Zimmerman 10 00	31	Miss Mary M. Harris. 18 75
28	Mrs. Edwin Amsden 10 00	April	
28	Mrs. Peter Patterson 10 00	30	Miss Mary Wilson .. 75 00
28	Orphans of J. A. Blott 10 00	30	Mrs. Peter Spence.... 15 00
28	Mrs. Chas. W. Noble 20 00	30	Mrs. Leslie Wright... 20 00
28	Mother of Jno. B. Cummings 15 00	30	Orphans of John.... Leitch 15 00
28	Mrs. Thos. Brock.. 10 00	30	Mrs. Theo. Stafford.. 10 00
28	Mrs. Geo Walker.... 15 00	30	Mrs. Jas. A. Malcolm 10 00
28	Mrs. W. F. Jennings 15 00	30	Mrs. Jno Hislop..... 10 00
28	Mrs. W. M. Tuttle . 10 00	30	Mrs. Wm Wilson..... 37 50
28	Mrs. Wm. Scott..... 10 00	30	Mrs. Thos. Fraser .. 15 00
28	Mrs. W. H. Street.... 10 00	30	Daughter of J.R. Steele 20 00
28	Mrs. Jno. Pattison.. 10 00	30	Mrs. J. K. Oliver.... 10 00
28	Mrs. Jno. G. Jorgenson 20 00	30	Mrs. H. L. Koffner . 10 00
28	Orphans of Jno. Jen- kins 20 00	30	Daughter of Edward. McNally..... 25 00
28	Mrs. S. Townsend.... 15 00	30	Mrs. Geo H. Bailie.. 20 00
28	Mrs. Peter R. Davey 15 00	30	Mrs. Thos. Fraser .. 15 00
March		30	Mrs. Jas. Hagerman. 10 00
31	Bro. C. R. Barker .. 25 00	30	Mrs. Geo. Grant..... 10 00
31	Mrs. Thos. Cuthbert- son ... 15 00	May	
31	Mrs. E. W. King ... 20 00	31	Bro. John Morgan .. 25 00
31	Daughter of J. F. Hope 10 00	31	Mrs. David Gardiner. 10 00
		Total.....	\$9,205 00

All of which is fraternally submitted,

HUGH MURRAY,
Grand Treasurer.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. R. L. Gunn, and

Resolved,—That the Reports of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer be received and referred to the Board of General Purposes.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Bro. W. R. White, and

Resolved,—That the Reports from the various District Deputy Grand Masters be received, considered as read, and referred to the Board of General Purposes.

ERIE DISTRICT, No. 1.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

In presenting to you the account of my stewardship, in accordance with the laws of your grand body, I feel that there will be many points concerning the condition of Masonry in this district left unnoticed and owing to the inability of your representative to pay more than one visit to each lodge, the opinions advanced may be considered immature. However, the duties I assumed one year ago were seriously undertaken, and I have faithfully and diligently executed them as time and ability permitted.

On assuming the office and looking over the field to lay out my work and fix my visits, I found that a large proportion of the lodges elect officers in December, and the officers then in the chairs had been inspected by my immediate predecessor. Not wishing to go over the same ground I found it necessary to do most of my visitation after December. The idea was impressed upon my mind that the terms of the officers in all subordinate lodges should begin in June, to permit the District Deputy the full period for visiting.

Remembering that uniformity of work was particularly impressed upon the D. D. G. M.'s, I paid especial attention to that part of my duties. In every lodge I did not hesitate to point out discrepancies and differences, or innovations, and did all that I could to assist the brethren in acquiring the proper rendering of the work in detail. In all cases I found the most willing inclination to receive all my suggestions and the earnest

desire to become proficient. In the matter of balloting I found great differences, and it would conduce to uniformity if one manner of balloting was sanctioned by Grand Lodge and that manner alone insisted upon. Great laxity exists in many lodges in performing that function. In fact I noticed the ballot box passed out of the lodge to the Tyler to deposit his ballot. There should be but one form of balloting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

This part of my duties was not very heavy, and it was cheerfully and, when possible, promptly attended to. I made it an especial feature of my office to give immediate attention to such matters in preference to my own personal and business matters. By so doing I trust all my correspondents have been satisfied. Wishing to maintain the dignity of the position I provided official letter paper for myself. This should be provided by Grand Lodge for each district.

BY-LAWS

Leamington Lodge, 290, and Wellington Lodge, 46, submitted changes in by-laws. They were forwarded through the proper channel for approval by the Grand Master.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

It was my intention to hold two Lodges of Instructions in my nistrict, but owing to divers circumstances I succeeded in holding but one. Under permission of Central Lodge, No. 402, I held a Lodge of Instruction at Essex on the 10th of March. The programme of work was carried out as follows : 1st Degree by Great Western, No. 47 ; 2nd Degree by Thistle Lodge, No. 34. This occupied all afternoon and had time permitted discussion would have continued long into the evening. In the evening the meeting was honored by the presence of the M. W. the Grand Master, and the third was exemplified by Central Lodge. All the work was ably and efficiently done, and my thanks are due and tendered to the lodges which took part in the work. It has been my experience that more profitable information and instruction are distributed and gathered at a Lodge of Instruction than in many ordinary meetings. Too much pressure cannot be exerted to procure large attendance of officers and members at these lodges. I consider these lodges the most potent influence for creating uniformity in work. They should be held in every district, and I would suggest to my successor the desirability of holding as many as he can.

DEDICATION. *

By command of the Grand Master I dedicated the new hall of Naphthali Lodge, Tilbury, on the 28th of May. I was cheerfully assisted by many able and enthusiastic brethren to whom my cordial thanks are presented. This lodge is most complete, tasty and beautiful in its appointments—its superior is not in the district. The brethren of the lodge are to be congratulated on the excellence of their Masonic home. After the dedication the brethren were entertained at a sumptuous banquet. A pleasing feature was the presence of a great number of ladies at this festivity. It is worthy of being followed on all like occasions. The ladies are grand members for the fourth degree.

NEW LODGE.

I received a petition for the establishment of lodge at Wheatly, County of Kent, and after due inquiry and consideration, recommended it to the proper authority.

HEALING.

Being unable to attend, and for the convenience of and saving expenses to the parties, authority was delegated to R. W. Bro. Wigle to heal W. J. Hiller of Essex and Alex. Brandon of Detroit. I desire to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness of R. W. Bro. Wigle on performing these acts, as well as in any other where he has been asked to take part.

SECRETARIES.

I have to acknowledge the kindness and promptness of the secretaries and their many courtesies to me. I have received copies of summonses from nearly every lodge. In taking office I sent a circular to all the lodges asking that copies of the summons be sent to me. All responded except in the case of Tecumseh Lodge, No. 245, and Thistle Lodge, No. 34. If the secretaries realized how essential it is for the D. D. G. M. to receive these summonses to properly lay out his visits, I have no doubt all would send the summonses regularly. These officers have many duties to perform and I found as a rule discharge them faithfully, and have kept and do keep the records of the lodges in good condition. I find that in most instances no lodge register is kept, and it would be desirable that Grand Lodge prepare a suitable form of such a book and insist on it being kept faithfully. Where it has not been kept, that it be made up as well as possible from the data in possession of the lodge.

ARREARS.

In many lodges I found this a standing complaint on the part of the secretary. Too many brethren are careless about the small amount of quarterly or annual dues. It is a small matter to them but when totalled up means a considerable amount to a lodge. It is not the brother who is least able to pay whom we find in arrears, usually they are most concerned and show their interest for the Craft by paying up. It is the brother who can but does not. Ask the secretary and you will then "listen to his tale of woe." In every instance where the question of arrears of dues was brought to my attention I did not fail to put the matter as strongly as possible and urged the officers to use the provisions of the Constitution for collection or cutting off the delinquent. A brother who can and does not pay deserves but slight consideration.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

Lorne Lodge, No. 282 : On the evening of 19th November, 1896, accompanied by W. Bro. Adkin, of Star of the East Lodge, No. 422, I paid my first official visit by attending this lodge. The room is too small to do the work effectively and I look to seeing this lodge at an early date in more appropriate quarters. There was a large attendance, the room being comfortably filled. The lodge is alive and increasing its membership. Plenty of work. The ballot was passed on an applicant who was accepted and initiated. The work was fairly done but lacked effectiveness from want of skill on the part of the brethren who acted as deacons, the regular officers being absent. The officers are earnest and willing. The J. W's. charge was most eloquently and forcibly given by Bro. Faulds. I have not heard it equalled. I advised the officers to spend more time in perfecting themselves in the floor work. This lodge has good material and I hope will show to better advantage to my successor. W. Bro. Steele in the chair.

The Hammond Lodge, No 327 : On the 15th day of December I visited Hammond Lodge, accompanied by W. Bro. Adkin. It was a most boisterous night to be out, but I braved the elements and was well repaid for so doing by the genial time I had with the brethren of that lodge. They had been disappointed before by the D. D. G. M. and I did not want to add another to the list. There was no work on, so we spent the evening giving information on points in all the degrees and answering questions. P. M. Munro in the chair. There is good material in the lodge and it should do well, but needs attention to detail. It is in a healthy condition. The W. M.,

T. Heywood, was present but did not take the chair, owing no doubt to want of knowledge of the work.

Parvaim Lodge, No. 395 : I found it convenient to visit Parvaim Lodge on the 14th January, where the work of the evening was the 3rd degree. W. Bro. Hughes in the chair. The work was very creditably done, and as it was the first raising for the W. M. I can safely predict more excellent work by him after a few trials. He has the material for a good officer. The other officers did well. I pointed out deviations from the established work and went through each degree for the benefit of all. Parvaim Lodge is in good hands. Financially good but too much in arrears of dues which I should strongly urge them to wipe out.

Parthenon Lodge, No. 267 : I visited Parthenon Lodge on 3rd February, and had the pleasure of viewing the first degree conferred in a very able manner by the officers of the lodge. W. Bro. Winterbourne in the chair. There was not much room for criticisms, but a few points were noticed and remarked upon by me. I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. Bros. McNab and W. Milner. A commendable feature of the evening was the attendance of a number of Past Masters of Wellington Lodge evidencing a most friendly interest in the work of a sister lodge. Parthenon is in good healthy condition and under good management.

Rodney Lodge, No. 411 : My next official visit was to Rodney, whither with my genial companion, W. Bro. Adkin, I journeyed on the 11th of February. I was gratified to meet quite a fair assembly of brothers and was welcomed and presented by R. W. Bro. Jell. I expected to have seen the first degree conferred, but the candidate not being ready the officers opened and closed in the three degrees. The work was fairly well done but the officers were new to the chairs and showed over anxiety and nervousness. This will wear off and I have no doubt under the tutelage of such able workers as R. W. Bro. Jell and W. Bros. Dorland, Kirkpatrick and others the work will attain the quality desired in all lodges.

McColl Lodge, No. 386 : Having promised a brother of McColl Lodge to visit the lodge at its next meeting I journeyed thither via Glencoe on the 16th of February. To my great satisfaction Bro. Foster of Lorne Lodge volunteered his company and to find a horse and cutter as a desirable means of getting over to West Lorne. I readily availed myself of his offer and was highly pleased with all the arrangements. We had a most hearty welcome by the brothers of McColl Lodge, and the work done that evening with W. Bro. Campbell in the East was equal to their hospitality. It was excellently done

The officers are young and enthusiastic and show great interest in the work. The future of the lodge looks bright. I gave the usual talk and pointed out where I considered desirable changes could be made. A half dozen brothers from Dutton attended the meeting and were quite complimentary to McColl Lodge and your representative. No one was allowed to depart without partaking of the good things bountifully provided.

Sydenham Lodge, No. 255, Dresden: On the 11th of March I paid my official visit to this lodge and had the pleasure of witnessing a friend of long standing (Bro. Geo. Weir) receive Masonic light. Under the guidance of W. Bro. Bently the first degree was conferred on the candidate. The work was not as well done as anticipated, nor as well as I believe the officers can do the work. It was apparently an "off night" for them. There are many able Masons in the lodge and it has (as it deserves) the name of a good working lodge. I met R. W. Bro. Carscallen, my predecessor, and six or seven other Past Masters. It speaks well for a lodge when the Past Masters attend. The lodge has plenty of work on hand and is thriving.

Tecumseh Lodge, No. 245: On March 18th I visited Tecumseh Lodge. Owing to the absence of summonses I was not enabled to know the work being done by the lodge and was agreeably surprised to find that there was a candidate for initiation. P. M. Ed. Moran assumed the east and the candidate was put through. The work was fairly well done. The Wardens were well up; the Deacons require practice and drilling. There was a fair attendance. The lodge is in good, healthy condition, and with the well skilled brethren who are members thereof it is in good hands. The W. M. was not able to confer the degrees, having been laid up with illness. He has the ability to do it well and will no doubt acquit himself properly.

Kent Lodge, No. 274: I was enabled to visit Kent Lodge, Blenheim, on the 12th of April. Was disappointed in finding the W. M. Bro. Davidson absent, but I. P. M. Robertson filled the chair acceptably. The J. W. was absent. A candidate was initiated. The work was fairly well done. The lodge is in a healthy condition, increasing in membership, but I regret that there was too much dues in arrears. I advised them to overcome what is a serious drawback to the well being of any lodge.

Leamington Lodge, No. 290: I went from Blenheim to Leamington and visited No. 290 on Tuesday, April 13th, and witnessed two initiations. W. Bro. Dr. Hiller in the chair. Work was well done; the lodge is in a good state. I was pleased to notice that the work of opening and closing was

done in a smart manner. The prospects of the lodge are bright. I deeply regretted missing the smiling face of Dr. Piper, a P. M. of the lodge. Being an enthusiastic brother, he is one you readily miss. My regret was intensified when I learned that it was a very serious illness that would keep him away. I am pleased to notice that he has since recovered.

Highgate Lodge, No. 336 : On Good Friday, 16th April, with six members of Star of the East Lodge, I visited this lodge, and received that cordial welcome for which the members of the lodge are famous. It was the first meeting of the lodge in its new hall, and a great many of its members and visitors were present. Among the visitors I noticed R. W. Bro. Anderson, of Ridgetown. The new room is convenient and well furnished, and reflects credit on the taste and enterprise of the brethren. W. Bro. Teetzel and his officers initiated two candidates, and the work was done with that skill and effect which characterizes this enthusiastic lodge. The condition of the lodge is healthy and prospects are bright.

Naphtali Lodge, No. 413 : On the 29th April, I had the pleasure of officially visiting this lodge, which met in its new room, the dedication of which I referred to in another part of my report. W. Bro. Willson opened the lodge and received me, after which P. M. Reynolds conferred the first degree, and P. M. Palmer the third degree. I was particularly well pleased with the work done. The lodge is in good condition, and has plenty of work which it richly deserves. Prospect bright. The W. Master (Bro. Willson) was not then well skilled enough to confer the degree, but I presume is so now.

Howard Lodge, No. 391 : The 10th of May saw me paying an official visit to the brethren of this lodge. I found quite a large attendance and the W. M. Bro. Mattice ruling the lodge. Their being no work, I had the lodge opened and closed in the three degrees. It was fairly well done, but not such work as I expected to find from the reports that I had of this lodge. The W. M. seemed to be scared, and did not take that grip of the work and control of the proceedings which characterize the true ruler of a lodge. The lodge has many well skilled brethren, and is in good hands. It is in good condition, and prospects are bright.

Thistle Lodge, No. 34 : The 11th day of May I spent in the pretty town of Amherstburg, and visited this old lodge the same evening. Owing to many of the members being associated with navigation there was but a small attendance. However, W. Bro. Hacket opened the lodge, and with his officers initiated a candidate in fine style, again giving evidence of that skill exhibited by it at the Lodge of Instruction. This lodge

is well officered, and can be safely trusted to give a good account of itself at any time. It is in fair condition.

The St. George Lodge, No. 41 : My respects were paid to this old and well known lodge on the 13th May. The W. M. Bro. Miller took the chair, and no work being on the card for the evening I had the officers open and close in each degree. I found that the brethren were greatly pleased with the work, and interest was sustained to the last. A very pleasant and profitable evening was spent in instruction and answering inquiries. The officers are well up, and the condition of the lodge (other than financially) is sound. The banquet afterwards was excellent, and many entertaining speeches were given. R. W. Bro. Allworth was present, and showed that he was the youngest mason present—by his enthusiasm.

Windsor Lodge, No. 403 : When I attended this lodge on the 14th of May, I found the reports of the condition thereof had not slandered this active body of Masons. The room was crowded, 100 present, many being from Detroit. The Master, W. Bro. Taylor, and his staff, conferred the third degree in a beautiful and emphatic manner, and our American brethren spoke very flatteringly of the work. Nothing said was undeserved. I objected to a couple of innovations, which, though not marring the work, are not provided for. The lodge is live and up to date.

Wellington Lodge, No. 46 : Thither I went on the 17th of May, and found the condition of the lodge very satisfactory. No work on the card, I had the W. M. Bro. Quinn and his officers exemplify the first degree. It was satisfactorily performed. After this was done, we went into the other degrees, and a most pleasant and profitable evening was put in. The officers are efficient, but the attendance was not as large as the membership warranted. I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. Bros. McNab, Miller and Rankin. The lodge is in good condition. Many points were brought up, which induced earnest and intelligent discussion.

Central Lodge, No. 402 : As I had been at this lodge when I held the Lodge of Instruction, I did not attend the meeting of the lodge on the 12th of May. I was in the town for the purpose, but on interviewing the officers, and finding other local matters on, I did not wait. Everything is in good condition, fine rooms and well appointed. Officers and members take a great interest in the work.

Florence Lodge, No. 390 : I was accompanied to this lodge by W. Bro. Adkin, of Star of the East Lodge, and Brothers Murphy, of Highgate, and Zimmerman, of Petrolia. The W. M. of this lodge was not at home and the chair was taken

by V. W. Bro. Drew. There was a slim attendance of members. The officers who were in attendance filled the chairs well in the opening and closing of the degrees. I regret to state that this lodge does not meet as often as it should. Much apathy is shown by the members in not attending meetings. The lodge is in good financial circumstances, but unless the members show greater interest in the affairs of the lodge during the next year by attending the meetings and encouraging the officers it may become necessary to call in the charter. V. W. Bro. Drew and W. Bro. Clarke are excellent officers but do not receive the active support of the members.

Great Western Lodge, No. 47 : On 10th June I paid this lodge a visit. I had already seen it do good work at the Lodge of Instructions, but desired to see it "at home." There was a large turnout of members, about 80, not including visitors. W. Bro. Peters and his officers conferred the third degree in an able manner and deserved all the praise bestowed upon them by the visitors. Like its sister lodge, "Windsor," it is healthy, active and prosperous and well officered.

Pnyx Lodge, No. 312 : Pursuant to engagement I attended this lodge on the 14th June and was sorry to find a poor turnout. With its membership it should have done better. There being no work on, I had the lodge opened in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees. Finding a lamentable lack of knowledge in all the officers about the ordinary work, I figuratively "took off my coat and waded in" for instruction purposes. I spent until after midnight in imparting instruction, which I trust will bear good fruit. The officers were delighted with what was done and stated it was the first time they had been so instructed. I trust the work begun will be attended to by my successor. The lodge is in large well appointed quarters and in safe financial condition. The future is fair, but will be brighter if the officers will but improve themselves in the work.

Star of the East Lodge, No. 422 : I reserved this lodge for the last. As I had attended it several times during the year, I kept informed of its condition. At the request of the W. M. I officially visited it on the 24th of June and installed its officers. No work was done during the past year, but there are matters on the slate that indicate a revival. The officers for the past year were enthusiastic and had the work up fairly well. I will leave further remarks to my successor.

DISPENSATIONS.

I granted dispensations to appear in public clothed as Masters to the following lodges : Sydenham, No. 255 ; Wellington,

No. 46 ; Highgate, No. 336 ; Naphtali, No. 413 ; Howard, No. 591 ; Parthenon, No. 267 ; Leamington, 290 ; Parvaim, 395.

DEATHS.

The following constitutes the sad roll of deaths in this district : James John Barnewall, P. M., Lorne, No. 282, April, 1897 ; Worthington E Hagaman, M. M., Howard, No. 391, 31st Aug, 1896 ; Gerhard Rheintgen, M. M., Florence, No. 390, 17th Sept., 1896 ; George McKenzie, F. C., Central, No. 402, 4th Dec., 1896 ; John Moffat, M. M., Windsor, No. 403, 23rd Dec, 1896 ; D. L. McGlashan, M. M., Windsor, No. 403, 17th Jan., 1897 ; Wm. S. Booth, M. M., Great Western, No. 47, 17th July, 1896 ; Samuel Blanning, M. M., Great Western, No. 47, 27th Feb., 1897 ; Joseph Williams, M. M., Wellington, No. 46, 21st Jan., 1897 ; Robert McFate, M. M., McColl, No. 386, 31st Dec., 1896 ; Samuel Dockstader, M. M., Highgate, No. 336, 28th Nov., 1896 ; W. S. Howell, M. M., Pnyx, No. 312 ; Charles Fraser, M. M., Pnyx, No. 312 ; Wm. H. Nelson, P. M., The St. George, No. 34 ; John W. Peterson, M. M., The St. George, No. 34 ; Peter Wilkinson, M. M., The St. George, No. 34.

CONDITION OF MASONRY.

In centemplating the year's work and summing up the results I have only to regret that opportunity was not afforded me of visiting the different lodges more frequently and that I have not performed all my duties with that measure of ability and thoroughness which the importance thereof deserved. Such as I possessed I gave fully and freely and for any faults, errors and omissions I supplicate the bestowal of that kindly virtue which should at all times characterize Freemasons. I have pleasure in reporting that there have been no quarrels or complaints brought to my notice. If any existed they have been adjusted happily in the way all troubles should be, quietly and between the brethren with the aid of reason and forbearance. Peace and good will have existed within our Masonic homes, and may they ever be and continue features of this district.

It is pleasing to note that there has been a fair increase in membership throughout the district. In some instances lodges have not added to their rolls. This is no indication that the lodge is dormant. It may be suffering from natural causes, or for want of good material prefers to rest upon its oars. Far better not to add to membership if by adding thereto the quality of the membership is lowered. Most of the lodges have active officers who show the true masonic spirit ; cordial in reception and ready in extending help. On the whole this Dis-

trict is in good shape. Some of the lodges are not in the best financial position and will require careful financing. Prudent economy and persistent efforts to keep down arrears of dues will largely contribute to place them on a sounder basis. There are but two elements that do not contribute to uniform well being of the District. One is the arrearage of dues about which I have spoken and the other is that lodges will elect to the East brothers who are not qualified and cannot qualify for that position. It is a mistaken kindness to and an ill-conferred honor upon the brother. In the end the lodge is the sufferer. I trust that in due time both of these errors will have ceased to exist.

Before quitting the honorable position which I have held for the past year, let me cordially thank the brethren who conferred upon me that distinguished honor, and the lodges and members thereof for their most kind and hospitable reception of me on my official visits. Those many kindnesses have lightened the duties and responsibilities of the office, and with a full heart I desire to express my sincere appreciation of each and every kindly act tendered me. I tried to do my whole duty and in doing it I hope some benefit has accrued to the District and that my labor has not been in vain, for I have learned much that will be of great benefit to me.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

W. K. HICKEY, D. D. G. M.

Erie District, No. 1.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Erie District, No. 1, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	Mem-ber-ship.	Degree's conf'd		Athletions.	Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet-ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief in arrears.	No of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all arrears.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.	
						E. A.	F. C.							M. M.	Regular.	Emergent.										Total.
34	Thistle	Amherstburg	39	5	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4	11	9	\$25 00	17	..	June, '96...	Poor.	Fair.	Yes	\$600 00
41	St. George's	Kingsville	71	4	5	4	4	1	..	2	..	..	3	14	7	22	18	25 00	15	\$186 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Shakey.	Fair.	Yes	1800 00
46	Wellington	Chatham	125	8	5	6	6	4	1	..	..	..	1	13	9	22	21	25 75	41	..	May 4, '97...	Good.	Good.	Yes	1400 00
47	G. L. West'n	Windsor	441	7	11	11	5	..	..	..	10	..	2	15	19	34	25	70 00	15	2 50	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	350 00
245	Tecumseh	Thamesville	50	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	2	15	20	8 00	..	..	Dec. 27, '96.	Medium.	Favorable	Yes	400 00
255	Sydenham	Bresden .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
267	Partionon	Chatham	61	7	5	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	13	4	17	12	6 00	21	156 50	Dec., 1896...	..	Good.	Yes	1000 00
274	Kent	Blenheim	67	4	4	4	5	..	..	2	..	..	..	11	6	17	15	40 00	22	70 00	June, '97...	Poor.	Fair.	Yes	None.
282	Lorne	Glencoe	42	7	4	5	6	5	3	..	..	..	..	12	2	14	13	20 00	7	52 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00
290	Leamington	Leamington	84	9	2	9	6	4	3	2	..	..	..	14	3	17	22	8 00	25	121 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00
312	Phyx	Wallaceburg	86	1	2	1	1	1	3	..	2	..	2	13	4	17	..	..	..	..	Dec. 27, '96.	..	Fair.	No	400 00
327	The Hammond	Wardsville	21	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	8	1	9	10	..	16	50 00	July, '96...	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
336	Highgate	Highgate	45	4	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	13	22	200 03	25	100 00	Dec., '96...	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
386	McColl	West Lorne	37	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	10	1	11	3	14	17	53 50	..	75 25	June, '96...	Fair.	Good.	No.	..	
390	Florence	Florence	18	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	5	8	3 00	4	40 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Not good	..	Yes	200 00
392	Howard	Ridgetown	63	3	1	2	2	2	..	5	5	..	1	12	2	14	20	10 00	21	111 58	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	300 00	
395	L'arvain	Comber	39	2	2	1	1	1	..	3	..	..	..	13	1	14	12	7 00	17	141 50	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	None.
402	Central	Essex	51	2	4	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	11	1	13	15	25 00	11	66 40	Jan. 13, '97.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	..
403	Windsor	Windsor	108	14	9	9	12	4	1	1	1	1	2	12	23	35	21	72 00	12	109 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	200 00	
411	Rodney	Rodney	32	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	13	1	14	..	15	106 00	June, '95...	Only fair	Fair.	Yes	150 00
413	Naphtali	Tilbury	71	16	15	13	12	1	..	..	..	..	..	12	13	25	14	..	13	61 00	June, '97...	Good.	Excellent.	Yes	300 00
422	str of the East	Bothwell	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	9	..	9	..	4	39 25	July 1, '96...	Good.	Good.	Yes	210 00

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT, No. 2.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario:

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I have the honor herewith to present to you my report on the condition of Masonry in the Second Masonic District, and in doing so I take the opportunity of thanking the brethren of this District for the honor they conferred on me by electing me by acclamation their D. D. G. M., and further for the kind and courteous manner in which they received and treated me during my term of office.

My first official act was the appointment of W. Bro. Jas. Fraser, Past Master of Bismarck Lodge, No. 419, as District Secretary and the Rev. T. R. Davis, of Victoria Lodge, No. 56, as District Chaplain, and I must say that these brethren have ably assisted me whenever occasion required.

On my official visits to each lodge I must say that I was received in a true Masonic manner, and my stay with them was made as pleasant as it was possible to be, and I might also state that all lodges in this District have willingly contributed in paying my expenses, which is a credit to the District.

I am pleased to be able to say that most of the lodges in the District are in good financial condition, although times are hard. I have made a special effort to visit at regular meetings and have only called one special in all my visits, and although it is a little more trouble to me I think it suits the lodges best.

At a Special Communication of Grand Lodge, held at Sarina, on Sept. the 4th, 1896, I had the pleasure of constituting and consecrating Tuscan Lodge and installing their officers, under the presence and supervision of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and by his kind remarks and good council this lodge has done good work and I have good reason to believe will so continue, being now a regular constituted lodge, No. 437, and the youngest lodge in the district, but I must say are doing as much work as almost any other lodge in the district.

VISITS.

Cassia Lodge, No. 116 : Visited this lodge on Nov. 16th, 1896, at regular meeting and received a hearty welcome by all

the brethren. The officers all present and I must say did the work well in every respect. Bro. Past Master Pool is Secretary of this lodge and by the neat and business-like manner in which the books are kept I am sure the right man is in the right place. The work was a passing, which was well done by the W. M., Wor. Bro. Morrison and his officers, assisted by Bro. Past Master Sutherland. I had the pleasure of meeting Right Wor. Bro. Hollwell, who seems to take as much interest in the Craft as ever and by whose good council this lodge has ever prospered. I also met the Wor. Master of Arkona Lodge, No. 307, Wor. Bro. Detwiller. After the lodge was closed we all sat down to an oyster supper at the Hallwell House, where a pleasant time was enjoyed.

Huron Lodge, No. 392, Camlachie : Visited this lodge on December 16 at regular meeting. This lodge is doing good work and I must say that I am more than pleased to be able to report that the greatest harmony prevails in this lodge. Bro. Past Master Trusler is secretary and takes great pains with his books, which are a credit both to himself and the lodge. The work was two passings and was well done by all the officers. The Worshipful Master, Bro. McIntyre, is a very correct worker and takes great interest in the work all through, in fact there were seven Past Masters present and all seem to have the good of the Craft at heart. After the lodge was closed refreshment was served in the room. I am pleased with my visit to Huron Lodge.

Burnes Lodge, No. 153 : I was requested to visit this lodge on December 28 and install their officers, which I did. I am glad this lodge is doing well and I am sure with the officers just installed I will be able to make a good report of this lodge when I make my official visit. I might say that I had the assistance of R. W. Bro. Harvey at this meeting who is noted for his zeal and attachment to the Craft.

Moore Lodge, Courtright, No. 294 : Visited this lodge on Jan. 14 at regular meeting, and was welcomed by 26 members and thirty visitors. I must say I am very much pleased with this lodge. The work was a passing and raising which was exceptionally well done by the Worshipful Master and his officers, although it was the first attempt of the degree by the Worshipful Master. The best of harmony prevails in this lodge as you may see by the large attendance. The books well kept and dues well paid up. W. Bro. Stockdale deserves great credit for the good work he has done during last year, and with the present staff of officers I am sure this lodge will continue to prosper. After the lodge was closed we all partook of refreshments, which was furnished by the brethren in the room. I

am sure these brethren are as friendly and entertaining as could be.

Visited Tuscan Lodge, No. 437, on Jan. 20th and installed their officers with the assistance of Wor. Bro. Past Master Woods, of Victoria, No. 56. This lodge is doing good work, and with the care it is sure to get by the newly installed W. Master, Bro. Winlow, this new lodge is sure to prosper.

Arkona Lodge, No. 307, Arkona: Visited this lodge on Feb. 11th at regular meeting. This lodge is noted for correct working, and I must say that the work, which was a 3rd degree, was well done in every respect and reflects great credit to the lodge generally. This lodge has a number of Past Masters which I was pleased to see present, showing the interest they still have in the work. Bro. Past Master Hooper is Secretary and takes great pains with his books. Dues well paid up, in fact no brother is twelve months' in arrears for dues. I had the pleasure of meeting the Wor. Master of Doric Lodge, Park Hill, at this meeting. After the lodge was closed we all sat down to an oyster supper which had been prepared by the brethren in the room and an enjoyable time we had. I shall always remember the kindness of Arkona brethren.

St. Clair Lodge, No. 425, Sombora: Visited this lodge on Feb. 16 at regular meeting. This lodge is doing well since their removal from Port Lambton, and judging from the harmony which now exists will continue to prosper. Bro. Smith is secretary and shows a very accurately kept set of books. The work, which was a passing, was well done, the officers are well skilled in the work. W. Bro. Roebuck is Master and deserves great praise for the good work he is doing at present as well as in the past for this lodge. After the lodge was closed an elegant spread was laid out in the room for the inner man, which all did justice to, and the way I was treated at this lodge will cause me to ever remember with kindness the brethren of this lodge.

Leopold Lodge, No. 397, Brigden: Visited the lodge Feb. 17th at regular meeting. There being no degree work on I requested the W. Master and his officers to exemplify the 1st degree, which was done well, in fact as this was the first attempt for the W. Master he did excellent, but sorry to say the Wardens were both absent, but I am satisfied that under the guidance of Wor. Bro. Doty, the present W. M., this lodge will prosper although they have not done much work in the past year. I had the pleasure of meeting Right Wor. Bro. Ward who is Secretary of this lodge and is a surety that every part of the work will be ably looked after and I believe the prospects for this lodge are very good. After the lodge was closed the

brethren all retired to the Queen's Hotel, where we found prepared for us an elegant supper, after which a pleasant hour was spent in conversation with the brethren who I found to be very entertaining.

Forest Lodge, No. 263, Forest : Visited this lodge on Feb. 24th at a special meeting. The officers all present except the Senior Deacon. The work being a third degree, which I must say was well done by the W. M., Wor. Bro. P. D. McCallum, and his officers, assisted by Bro. Past Master Body, who is noted for his skill in the work. The attendance was not as large as might have been owing to an entertainment in town that evening which required the attendance of some of the brethren. But I am pleased to note that a number of Past Masters were in the east and take great interest in the work and the prospects for this lodge I am sure are very bright. I should have visited this lodge in 1896, but there being no work on I waited till there was, so this lodge was without a visit from the D. D. G. M. in 1896.

Victoria Lodge, No. 56, Sarnia : Visited this lodge on the 2nd of March at regular meeting and found all the officers present, also a large number of the members and 13 visitors. This lodge is doing a very large amount of work and I must say that the I. Past Master, Wor. Bro. S. Johnston, and the officers who assisted him deserve great credit for the efforts and good work they did in 1896, and I am pleased to note that the W. Master, Wor. Bro. A. Weir, is still holding this lodge in the high standing which it has attained. I think I can safely say that the Wor. Master, and in fact all the officers of Victoria Lodge, are second to none in the district for correct working. The work of the evening was a first and second, which was given almost letter perfect by the W. M. and his officers. Bro. Coulter is Secretary of this lodge and keeps the books very accurately and the dues well paid up. I am sure that I am proud of this my Mother Lodge, whether she is proud of her offspring or not. I had the pleasure of meeting Right Wor. Bro. Gowan at this meeting, also Very Wor. Bro. Lammis, who are members of this lodge. After the lodge was closed we all sat down to an elegant spread which was prepared by the brethren, and a pleasant hour was passed. I shall long remember the kindness of the brethren of Victoria Lodge to me.

Washington Lodge, No. 260, Petrolia : Visited this lodge on March the 3rd at their regular meeting and found a large number of the brethren present. I was pleased to meet my predecessor, Right Wor. Bro. Scott, also Right Wor. Bro. Sinclair and a number of Past Masters. Bro. Past Master, J. McHattie is Secretary and that proves that the books are well kept

and dues well paid. The work announced was an initiation, but the candidate was not present, so the Wor. Master, with his officers, opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees and exemplified the first degree, which was done with credit to themselves and their lodge. The best of harmony prevails in this lodge and prospects are good. After lodge was closed the brethren all retired to the hall where they had prepared an elegant supper, and I can safely say that the brethren of Washington Lodge excel as entertainers.

St. John's Lodge, No. 81, Mt. Brydges: Visited this lodge on March the 16th at regular meeting and found all the officers present, also a large number of the members and Past Masters. Wor. Bro. Past Master West is Secretary and shows the books well kept and dues well paid. This lodge has a fine building and well furnished, which I am pleased to say is their own and almost clear of debt. The work was a passing, which was well done by the W. Master and his officers. Wor. Bro. Betts is an experienced worker, he having passed the chair some years before and shows that he has the interest of the Craft at heart by being elected to the East again. I am satisfied that this is one of the best lodges in the district.

Burns Lodge, No. 153, Wyoming: Visited this lodge on March the 18th at regular meeting. I was met at the station by the Past Master, Wor. Bro. Coghlan, and Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. Harvey, who are noted for their good work in the Craft. Very Wor. Bro. Jas. Wilson is Secretary of this lodge and looks well after that part of the work. I found the Wor. Master, Bro. Pritchard, and all of his officers present. The work was an initiation and I must say was remarkably well done. The lodge opened and closed in the three degrees, and I am sure this lodge, although they have been working under some little difficulties, they are now in a prosperous condition and with the present staff of officers good work will be done in the future. I must say that I feel grateful to the brethren of Burns Lodge for their kindness to me whenever I visited them.

Havelock Lodge, No. 238, Watford: Visited this lodge on April 13th at a regular meeting. There was a very small attendance at this meeting, which seemed to annoy the Wor. Master, but this I believe was due in part to all of the churches in town having something special on that evening. Wor. Bro. Goodhand, the W. M., with his officers opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees and did that part of the work very correct, and although they did not work any degree, I am satisfied they are quite competent. Bro. Past Master Kenward, the Secretary, is an excellent good bookkeeper and keeps that part of the work very accurately. I cannot see why this lodge should not prosper.

Alvinston Lodge, No. 323, Alvinston : Visited this lodge on April 14th at regular meeting and was met at the station by several of the brethren who welcomed me to their lodge. The Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. McKay, is a good worker and a zealous Mason and is looking well after this lodge. There was some degree work on the notice, but candidates not present. The W. M. with his officers opened and closed in the three degrees and exemplified some of the work which was very correctly done. This lodge has had a little drawback during the last year or two, but with the present staff of officers I am sure Alvinston Lodge will prosper. Bro. Cummer is Secretary and is taking very great interest in that part of the work which is necessary for the success of every Lodge. I must say that the brethren of Alvinston Lodge made my visit as pleasant as it was possible for them to do.

Beaver Lodge, No. 83, Strathroy : Visited this lodge at regular meeting April 23rd, and although very stormy there was a good attendance both of members and visitors. There being no degree work for this meeting I requested the first degree exemplified, which was done in a very creditable manner, all the officers being present and well skilled in the work. The lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees and correctly done. Bro. E. A. Alexander is W. Master of this lodge and is a correct worker. Bro. Past Master Richardson is Secretary and shows a neat and well kept set of books. I had the pleasure of meeting Rt. Wor. Bro. Whitehead at this meeting, who still keeps a careful watch over this lodge, which is one of the best in the district. I was also pleased to see a number of Past Masters at this meeting who still have the good of Masonry at heart. After the work was over we partook of refreshments which were furnished by the brethren in the room, and an enjoyable hour was passed in social intercourse.

I made my official visit to Bismarck Lodge, No. 419, Pt. Edward, on May the 10th at regular meeting. This lodge is composed principally of railroad men, and although it has a large membership it is not easy to get a good attendance at the meetings, both the Wardens being out on the road this day. The lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees, which was done very correctly. There was a third on the notice for this meeting, but the brother was away on his engine, so there was no degree work done, but I am a regular attendant at this lodge and know that the Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. Pearson, and his offices are well skilled in the work, and although the Wardens were not present at this meeting, I know they take great interest in the work and attend whenever it is possible. This lodge has suffered considerable by changes made with the G.

T. R., but still is doing some work and I trust will continue to prosper.

Dufferin Lodge, No. 364, Melbourne : Visited this lodge on May 12th at regular meeting. This lodge has not been doing as well as it should, but I believe the present officers are making an effort in the right direction and I sincerely hope their efforts will be crowned with prosperity. The greatest difficulty appears to be their neglect to make any returns to Grand Lodge ; this I have recommended to be done at once, which I trust has been done ere this. I find quite a number of the members in arrears for dues, and I think if this was collected there would be no trouble to make returns to Grand Lodge. I trust and believe that my successor will find this lodge in good shape next year. Lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees and I believe the officers to be fairly well up in the work, and I have no doubt with more practice and more work to do they would take the interest in their lodge which the officers and members should. I must say that I was well received by this lodge and I trust Grand Lodge will be as lenient with them as possible.

Ionic Lodge, No. 328, Napier : Visited this lodge on May 14th at regular meeting. This lodge is not doing much work of late and I am sorry to say had not enough members present at this meeting to open lodge in proper form. This may be due in part to the very stormy day and bad roads which happened to be on that day. This lodge has some good members and I cannot see why it does not prosper. I recommend a special effort on the part of the officers of No. 328. After waiting for some time there was present five members and two visitors and we had an hour's practice and I found most of the brethren that were present to be fairly well skilled in the work. This lodge is in good financial condition and I am sure with a little push will be all right. The Secretary of Alvinston Lodge, No. 323, Bro. Cummer, drove me over and I was very much pleased with his company, for the night was dark and the roads very muddy. I shall not soon forget the kindness of the Secretary of Alvinston Lodge.

I made an official visit to Tuscan Lodge on May 19th at regular meeting. This lodge, No. 437, is the youngest lodge in the district and I am pleased to say is doing good work. The officers all well up in the work and regular in attendance, which I know by being at several meetings myself. Wor. Bro. Winlow is W. Master and takes great pains in the welfare of his lodge. The work was two third degrees and I must say was very accurately done by the Wor. Master and his officers, and I am sure this new lodge at Sarnia has merited the char-

ter which the Most Wor. the Grand Master was pleased to grant them.

Alexandra Lodge, No. 158, Oil Springs : Visited this lodge May the 20th, at regular meeting. The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. H. Beaton, and all the officers present except the Senior Warden, who was unavoidably absent. Bro. W. S. Dugan is secretary of this lodge and, I must say, is the ideal of a secretary, which is shown by all his work. The work was two second degrees which was very impressively given by the Worshipful Master assisted by Bro. Past Master Chalmers. I am much pleased to report several Past Masters present at this meeting who still retain their interest in the work. I must say that I could see that the best of harmony prevails in this lodge, and has done some benevolent work that is worthy of note during the last year. I had the pleasure of seeing V. W. Bro. Geo. Sammis, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, at this meeting, who has ably assisted me whenever opportunity afforded. After lodge was closed we all partook of a lunch which had been provided by the members in their hall, and I must say that a clever lot of Masons is at Oil Springs.

Petrolia Lodge, No. 194, Petrolia : Visited this lodge on June the 9th, at regular meeting and found all the officers present. W. Bro. Past Master Smith is secretary of this lodge and shows the books well and neatly kept and dues well paid up. There being no degree work for this meeting the Worshipful Master, with the assistance of his officers opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees, which was done to perfection, so I am sure the officers are all well skilled in the work. A number of questions asked in each degree and answers given pertaining to the work. This being the home of R. W. Bro. Sinclair I had the pleasure of his company and counsel ; he is a shining light in this district in the craft. This is also the home of my predecessor but owing to other business in New York which called him away there, R. W. Bro. Scott was not present. This lodge is noted for correct working and under the guidance of such skilled brethren is bound to prosper. After the work was over and lodge closed we all retired to the lunch room where we found the brethren had provided an elegant spread of eatables and a very pleasant hour was passed. I must say that the brethren of Petrolia excel in this particular and I must say that every courtesy is shown to visitors at Petrolia Lodge.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

I held a Lodge of Instruction under the auspices of Havelock Lodge, No. 238, Watford, on Feb. 10th, which was a great success, and I take this opportunity of thanking the brethren of

Havelock Lodge for their kindness and assistance with this meeting. The first degree was worked by the Wor. Master of Victoria Lodge, Sarnia, and his officers. Wor. Bro. Weir deserves credit for the special effort he made to have the actual officers of his lodge do this degree at Lodges of Instructions, and I must say they did it well. The second degree was exemplified by Bro. Past Master Hooper, of Arkona Lodge, No. 307, and the actual officers of that lodge, and was so accurately done that no room was left for discussion. The third degree was given by Bro. Past Master Saunders in a faultless manner. Wor. Bro. Saunders is the I. Past Master of Havelock Lodge, and I thank him and the officers of this lodge for the great assistance they gave me at this meeting. I am sure a great amount of good is done by holding Lodges of Instruction, and if there was any way of directly meeting the expenses thereof I am sure there would be more of them held. I am pleased to say that most of the lodges in the district were represented at this meeting and I believe all were well satisfied with the work that was done. I had the pleasure of meeting Right Wor. Bros. Scott, Sinclair and New at this meeting, and I must say that one of the particular events of this gathering was the presentation of a D. D. G. Master's regalia to my predecessor, Right Wor. Bro. Scott, which he justly merited. The presentation was made by Right Wor. Bro. Sinclair in a few well chosen remarks on behalf of the brethren of the district. Right Wor. Bro. Scott thanked the brethren in a very feeling manner for the kindness they had shown to him. This ended, I believe, the most pleasant Lodge of Instruction I ever attended.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have issued dispensations for the purpose of attending Divine Service to the following lodges: Arkona, No. 307, Sept. 20th, 1896; Alvinston, No. 323, June 20th, 1897, and Petrolia, No. 194, June 27th, 1897.

I have had reported to me the following brethren who have died during the year: Bro. Joseph Hadden and Bro. Ben Hallock, of St. John's Lodge, No. 81; Bro. W. Rapley, Bro. A. S. Heakes and Bro. H. Dell, of Beaver Lodge, No. 83.

Now, in closing my report I desire to thank all the officers of Grand Lodge for the prompt and kind manner in which they have assisted me whenever I had occasion to apply to them for aid or guidance; and now my work is done, although very imperfect, I feel that I have many reasons to remember the kindness of all the brethren.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

B. F. GEORGE, D. D. G. M.,

St. Clair District, No. 2

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in St. Clair District, No. 2, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodges.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Mem-ber-ship.		Total No. of all Mem.	Decrease during year.		E. A.	F. C.	M. M.	Affiliations.		Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet-ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief.	No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all Arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can. W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
			Increase during year.	Decrease during year.		Regular.	Emergent.				Total.																		
56	Victoria....	Sarnia.....	70	7	3	9	8	10	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	11	4	15	25	\$45 00	14	\$	44 00	Jan. '97.....	Good.	Yes	\$300 00
81	St. John's....	Mt. Brydges....	50	10	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	13	13	15	22 00	3		6 00	Jan. '97.....	Good.	Yes	1500 00	
83	Beaver.....	Strathroy.....	77	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	14	17	20	17 50	4	225 00	June '97.....	Good.	Yes	1000 00		
116	Cassia.....	Thedford.....	23	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	13	10	17 50	4	7 65	Dec. '96.....	Good.	Yes	300 00		
153	Burns.....	Wyoming.....	61	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	6	7	1	1	1	1	15	16	18	41 00	8	50 50	April '96.....	Fair.	Yes	1200 00		
158	Alexander....	Oil Springs....	46	7	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	7	1	1	1	1	1	14	14	15		6	51 00	Dec. '96.....	Good.	Yes	1000 00		
191	Petrolia....	Petrolia.....	90	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	11	15		17	28	51 00	Dec. '96.....	Good.	Yes	250 00		
238	Havelock....	Watford.....	62	3	3	3	3	5	1	2	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	14	17	18		16	160 75	June '96.....	Fair.	Yes	300 00		
260	Washu'tu....	Petrolia.....	69	1	3	3	3	5	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	11	15		28	75 00	June '96.....	Fair.	No.	250 00		
263	Forest.....	Forest.....	56	1	4	4	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	14	18	30	5 00	9	41 00	June '06.....	Good.	Yes	400 00	
294	Moore.....	Courtright....	27	2	2	3	3	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	11	11	15	9 00	3	13 00	June '97.....	Good.	Yes	250 00		
307	Arkona.....	Arkona.....	41	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	13	15		2	6 50	Jan. '97.....	Fair.	Yes	200 00		
323	Alvinston....	Alvins on.....	57	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	11	13	17		16	75 00	Dec. '96.....	Fair.	Yes	5000 00			
328	Ionic.....	Napier.....	23	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	8	8 00	12	100 00	Jan. '87.....	Good.	No.	800 00			
364	Dufferin....	Melbourne....	24	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	9	10		10	76 00	Jan. '89.....	Poor.	Gaining.	Insur'd			
392	Huron.....	Caulachie....	51	5	7	6	6	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	13	13	16	60 00	12	80 00	Jan. '97.....	Good.	Yes	Yes	185 00		
397	Leopold....	Brigden.....	41	1	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	13	15	11	10 00	15	90 00	Dec. '96.....	Good.	Yes	200 00		
419	Bismarek...	P't. Edward...	69	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	12	12	18	20 00	15	80 00	Dec. '96.....	Fair.	Yes	300 00		
425	St. Clair...	Sombra.....	40	3	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	17	50 00	15	65 00	Dec. '96.....	Fair.	Yes	Yes		
437	Tuscan.....	Sarnia.....	40	10	8	10	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	7	19	12	10 00			Dec. '96.....	Good.	Yes	Yes		

LONDON DISTRICT NO. 3.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

The untimely death of R. W. Bro. W. G. McMillen, the District Deputy Grand Master of this district, on the 9th of May last, which every craftsman in this section of the jurisdiction sincerely deplores, necessitated the appointment of a successor for the interim between that date and the meeting of Grand Lodge, and you, M. W. Sir, did me the unsolicited honor of placing the affairs of the district in my keeping until the brethren had chosen one of their number to fill the office. For this unexpected kindness permit me to thank you. The care of an active business, I may remark at the outset, prevented me from devoting as much time and attention to the internal affairs of the district as I could have wished, but the wonderful activity displayed by my lamented predecessor, even when his health should have warned him against it, seems to have left Craft Masonry in No. 3 District in a condition where no very great fault can be found. From the papers which have come into my possession in regard to complaints, which were of a somewhat frivolous character, to say the least, I am pleased to say the parties thereto have agreed to drop proceedings, which, in one of the cases, was entered upon, and they settled amicably the misunderstanding. This method of settling disputes I heartily commended and am pleased to say the results have been of the most beneficial kind. Harmony, so far as I am aware, prevails throughout the district and will I trust be long continued.

Since assuming the position I have been informed that the brethren of Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 171, Iona, desired under certain conditions and circumstances to be permitted to remove to Lawrence Station, where the brethren felt a greater measure of prosperity would attend their efforts. I counselled them to weigh well the question, and if it was the unanimous wish of the brethren interested that the removal would be beneficial I would be pleased to give them the desired permission so far as I was allowed under the constitution. Since then I have ascertained that the entire matter has been rele-

gated to a committee who are to be the judges of the accommodation to be provided in a new building, which one of the members has in course of construction and upon whose report the lodge will act.

While the subject I purpose alluding to may not come strictly within the purview of an acting District Deputy, I nevertheless desire to call your attention to a matter which demands the immediate attention of those in authority. I refer to the unmasonic practice of indiscriminate canvassing indulged in by the friends of prospective occupants for the position of representative of the Grand Master in their district. Within the past two years more systematic canvassing has been done, and openly done, hereabouts than has been the case in the memory of the oldest Mason, and the flagrant methods adopted by brethren who should and do know better are especially obnoxious to every high principled craftsman in the district. Several youthful Past Masters, who doubtless expect to receive an appointment for the efforts put forth, are known to have written letters to brethren in sister lodges inviting them to do their level best to elect W. Bro. So-and-So in preference to another brother (name given) whose offence it appears was in exercising his franchise as a Past Master in favor of the candidate of his choice at the last communication of Grand Lodge. Again, it is openly charged that a few Past Masters, very recently from the East, with a similar end in view, make up parties and sally into the rural districts about election time (St. John the Baptist Day) ostensibly with the view of paying the lodges a fraternal visitation. But, while it is dangerous to impute motives, I feel from my knowledge of the brethren who indulge in this escapade that I am not far wide of the mark in saying that their main object is, if possible, to secure the proxy for their especial favorite for the D. D. G. M's. chair, or failing that, to have it placed in the hands of a brother who would be as "clay in the hands of the potter" for the purposes intended. Indeed it can be truthfully said that the election for this high position now-a-days hereabouts has resolved itself into a drawn battle where those who adhere strictly to the fundamental principles of the Craft are badly left, and that, too, while upholding the time-honored customs of their forefathers. It is high time such baneful practices were put a stop to, either by a drastic resolution of Grand Lodge or an extenuation of the notice of motion of Wor. Bro. Barwick, of Toronto, to be considered at the approaching communication of Grand Lodge. It would not to my mind be out of place, for a couple of years, to invest the appointments usually made on the recommendation of the D. D. G. M's. entirely in the hands of the M. W.

the Grand Master with a view to checking what every well wisher of the Craft must admit is a crying evil, as distasteful as it is pernicious.

It may be that my strictures will offend one or more P. M.'s who have in the past been friendly towards me; but I feel that upholding the dignity of the craft is paramount to any other consideration, even of a personal nature. The brethren who have been "running riot" in this respect should remember that Craft Masonry is not allied with any Benefit Association, which, if reports are correct, do not hesitate to use means to secure the election of favorites by "ways that are dark" which would shame the average political heeler of either party of the present day. I have spoken strongly on this subject, because I feel that unless steps are speedily taken to check this abuse, the practice will grow and irreparable injury will result to Craft Masonry, in so far as their efforts in that direction are concerned.

The remaining lodges which my predecessor in office failed to visit officially were the two Saints John Lodges of this city (20 and 209a). These energetic bodies I visited at their June communications, and as usual a large attendance was noticeable at both meetings. The officers and brethren generally are adepts at the work, and the different degrees are exemplified with that correctness of detail and sublimity which invariably impresses the most stolid and indifferent observer. The secretaries are old and experienced officers and their books are models of neatness.

On the 7th inst. I paid St. Paul's Lodge, No. 107, Lambeth, a casual visit, and found the W.M. and brethren as enthusiastic as of yore in the interests of Masonry, and more especially their lodge, which is one of the best worked and best attended rural lodges in the western portion of the jurisdiction. The younger brethren seem to vie with energetic Past Masters in maintaining the status of the lodge, and while they had no work on hand the geniality exhibited, and the warm grasp of the hand, told unmistakably of the pleasure experienced in having amongst them the representative of the Grand Master in London District.

The statistical reports furnished show a considerable falling off in the payment of dues in several lodges. I have always contended that notwithstanding hard times and financial stringency much of the work of collecting dues in good season can be done by the secretary if he uses his wits to compass this desirable object; but the old-fashioned notice, generally found at the bottom of the summons, calling the attention of the brethren to the fact that if they are two years in arrears sus-

pension will follow, does not meet the requirements of the times, and should be discarded for something more up to date. I offer the suggestion to these officers in the kindest spirit, and trust they will devise some method which will commend itself to the defaulting brethren.

So far as I am aware, and I have based my statements on information received from conversations with leading craftsmen of the District, the condition of Masonry in London is in a healthy and prosperous state. The work is done well and according to the prescribed formula, each vying with the other in presenting the beautiful and impressive ceremonies to their brethren. The fraternal side of the order is also well sustained. Pleasant meetings of various kinds, at which a general interchange of views takes place, are held throughout the winter, and much good is accomplished through this means. Indeed at no time during the past quarter century has there been exhibited such a oneness of feeling as at present, and my prayer is, and I feel satisfied I am heartily joined in the supplication by every true craftsman in the District, that such a pleasant state of affairs may long continue.

Out of the twenty-six lodges in the London District the late D. D. G. M. officially visited twenty. Of these visits he had written up seventeen, leaving three, viz.: Aylmer, London West and Port Stanley lodges, unrecorded. Since the fact was made known to me, I have conversed with the P. M.'s who visited with the late Bro. McMillen at the places named, and their reports are exceedingly favorable of the success which attended each visit. The late D. D. G. M. was most fraternally received by the brethren of every lodge, and the work exemplified was highly commended by him and other visitors. A report from any other than the authorized brother would not, I apprehend, be received with any degree of satisfaction; hence the omission.

Of the three lodges which I was unable to visit officially, that of Kilwinning I am abundantly able to report upon, having frequently visited it unofficially, and being personally acquainted with the Master and his subordinate officers, and having a knowledge of their ability to work the recognized ritual, I can safely say that they are second to none in the District. The secretary is a painstaking official, his books are models of neatness and correctness, and he is fully up to anything that could be desired in his position. I had arranged to visit them at their last regular meeting, but was called away from the city, and they at that meeting called off for the balance of the season, so in consequence an official visit was rendered impossible.

I had made an engagement to visit Mt. Olivet Lodge at their regular meeting on the 13th of July, but through an unfortunate mistake in connection with the date I disappointed them, and personally lost to myself what would have been no doubt a satisfactory and enjoyable meeting. I am able to say, however, that this lodge is fairly prosperous and they have a good average attendance at their meetings. The present Master keeps up the high standard of the work, for which this lodge is always known.

In respect to the Iona Lodge I found it utterly impossible to visit it, though I have had considerable correspondence with its officials. It being somewhat out of the way I could not spare the time from my private business to make the customary official visit. This lodge is barely holding its own at the present time, but, no doubt, if they succeed in making the change at present talked about, they will obtain a new and longer lease of life and possibly the succeeding District Deputy may have a more favorable report to submit in connection with it.

In conclusion I wish to thank the brethren with whom I have come in contact in my official capacity for the uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me, and will say that if the experience of all Grand Lodge officials are as pleasant as mine they will have very many regrets in retiring from office.

Since writing the above report I have received a communication from Past Master H. Stratfold, of Union Lodge, No. 380, charging his lodge with the unmasonic conduct of having opened their last regular communication at a much earlier hour than that specified on the regular summons, with a view of balloting for candidates before certain brethren would arrive and thereby preventing them from exercising their Masonic privilege in the ballot; it being understood, I gather from the communication, that some of the brethren had a strong objection to some of the proposed candidates becoming members of the lodge.

As this communication reached me too late to investigate the matter myself before the meeting of Grand Lodge, it will be a matter for my successor, or a committee appointed by the Grand Master, to investigate and I would suggest that it be done at the very earliest possible moment.

In the meantime I have notified the Master of Union Lodge not to initiate the candidates or proceed further in matters that would come under the head of the objections made by Wor. Bro. Stratfold.

Fraternally submitted.

A. B. GREER, Acting D. D. G. M.
London District, No. 3.

P. S.—Appended will be found the remarks of the late Bro. McMillen regarding the lodges he visited and also the Lodge of Instruction held by him in London on Nov. 30th last.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

I held a Lodge of Instruction in the Blue Room, Masonic Temple, London, Nov. 30th, 1896. The Worshipful Masters of the eight city lodges presided, and exemplified the work in the first and second degrees, changing the officers after they opened up or conferred the degree. My object for calling such a Lodge of Instruction was to show that the work in the city lodges was uniform. The Worshipful Masters who took part were: D. W. Blackwell, St. John's, No. 20; J. Blanch, St. George's, No. 42; W. F. W. Findlater, Kilwinning, No. 64; G. T. Brown, Tuscan, No. 195; W. J. Clarke, St. John's, No. 209a; J. B. Munroe, Corinthian, No. 330; A. R. Galpin, King Solomon, No. 378; G. F. Morris, Union, No. 380.

This was the largest gathering ever held in the Blue Room. Representatives from all over the district were in attendance, and took a deep interest in the proceedings, which were carried out to my entire satisfaction. At the close of the work slight criticisms were indulged in, but the excellence of the work was so pronounced as to render criticism unprofitable.

I have no doubt much good will be the result, and like the bread cast upon the waters, will be seen after many days. When the degree work had been concluded, M. W. Bro. D. Spry, P. G. M., made a presentation of a D. D. G. M.'s regalia to R. W. Bro. Rutherford, of Aylmer, P. D. D. G. M. of this District for 1895 and 1896, on behalf of the District, who purchased the regalia. Lodge then closed, and a large number adjourned to the banqueting hall, where a tempting display of edibles had been spread, procured by the city lodges. Ample justice being done to this part of the proceedings, the usual Masonic toasts were given, and the sentiments brought out on this occasion will not soon be forgotten. The consensus of opinion among all who attended the function was that it was the most successful of its kind ever held in this Masonic District.

A few of the distinguished brethren that attended on this occasion were: M. W. Bro. D. Spry, P. G. M.; R. W. Bros. W. W. Rutherford, J. Simpson, A. B. Munson, S. S. Clutton; Ven. Archdeacon Davis, P. G. C.; A. E. Cooper, Geo. C. Davis and J. S. Dewar, P. G. J. W.'s, and V. W. Bros. P. Toll, C. A. Kingston, J. Callard, O. J. Bridle and S. Dubber, over 50 past and present W. M.'s and about 300 brethren.

St. Thomas Lodge, No. 44, St. Thomas: To this lodge I paid my first official visit on October 1st. No less than fifty of the London brethren accompanied me and a large deputation from Aylmer, St. David's, No. 302, and other parts of the District were in attendance. The members of this lodge were fully up to the average, and a more hearty reception could not well be given to the representative of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master than I received from the large number of brethren present. W. Bro. Streak and his officers exemplified the first degree in almost a faultless manner, and the rendition of the lecture by the Junior Warden, Bro. Wickett, almost perfect. The books are kept in a clean, concise form, the dues well paid up, and one hundred and forty members on the roll. The energetic secretary, R. W. Bro. Slater, receives great credit from his lodge for his untiring energy in keeping the lodge in so healthy a position. My report of Masonry in this lodge is one of the best and is attributed to the interest the officers and members take in making this the banner lodge of the District. The lodge room is a picture of neatness, a most inviting place to pass away a few hours in making Masons and improving the great gifts God has bestowed on the human race. Old 44 entertained the visitors in the banqueting hall to a substantial repast which brought the large number of brethren in closer touch in song and sentiment one with the other. Bright prospects are in store for this lodge.

The Tuscan Lodge, No. 195, London: On October 5th I paid this lodge my first official visit in this city. The attendance of members did not come up to my expectation, owing possibly to this their first meeting after the summer vacation. V. W. Bro. P. Toll, Wor. Bro. Morris, of Union, Wor. Bro. Kennedy, P. M. of Corinthian, and other W. M's were present. All the officers except the Senior Warden were in their places, he having removed from the city to Toronto. His place was filled by Wor. Bro. Paul. I was received with the honors due to the representative of the G. M. by those present. The Wor. M., Bro. Brown, raised the lodge to the third degree and this degree was conferred on one candidate by the Wor. M. and W. Bro. McWhinney, a Past Master. They were ably assisted by the officers of the lodge in the floor work. The lodge was closed equally well in the three degrees. The Tuscan Lodge always extends a hearty welcome to brethren and the visitors on this occasion were made fully aware of this fact. In the library light refreshments were served and it was here that the hearty responses to the toasts brought the brethren in close touch one with the other by exchanging sentiments. The prospects of this lodge are fair ; a change in one or

two of the officers might tend to create an increase in attendance.

Delaware Valley Lodge, No. 358: On October 16th, 1896, the occasion of my visit to this lodge, W. Bro. J. R. Hammond, W. M., and his officers, P. M. and brethren, gave me a royal reception, a large number of which were in attendance. V. W. Bro. Callard, of St. George's Lodge, No. 42, V. W. Bro. Bridle, W. Bro. Morris, and others from Union Lodge No. 380, also W. Bros. Thornecroft and Irwin of Lambeth Lodge, No. 107, paid a fraternal visit to this lodge. The W. M. and his officers passed one candidate. The work of this degree being very well done by them. I noticed a great deal of harmony prevails in this lodge among the brethren. The lodge room is very neat and inviting. The ante-room is too small. The dues fairly well paid up, and the members all take an active interest in the welfare of their lodge. The Secretary, Bro. Montgomery, is a thoroughly posted man in keeping books, the most criticising eye cannot find fault with them. After the lodge closed a pleasant time was spent in songs, speeches, etc. W. Bro. Harris, a P. M., W. Bro. Riley, a P. M., and others of this lodge make you feel you are at home while visiting them and among true masons. The outlook for Delaware Lodge is very bright.

King Solomon Lodge, No. 394, Thamesford: On October the 21st, 1896, I paid my official visit to this lodge, and was accompanied by several of the London brethren. The attendance of members was not as large as I wished to see, owing no doubt to this being a busy time in the year with farmers. Out of a total membership of fifty-two, less than half this number were present, noticeably the W. M. Bro. Mills, until near the close of the lodge. W. Bro. O'Neil, a P. M., ably filled the position, and was well supported by the other officers, who have their work up thoroughly. The candidate for the second degree being absent, I asked the officers to open up the lodge in the Fellowcraft and M. M. degree and close. They did so, and very satisfactorily. The lodge room is new and complete in every detail. Insured for \$1,500. The prospects of this lodge are bright. The Secretary, Bro. Dundas, informed me that the arrearages were small, and a special effort would be made in the next two months to collect all in. He is a worthy Secretary, and the books are kept neatly. After the lodge was closed all were invited to a substantial spread by one of the brethren. The chairman, W. Bro. Dr. McWilliams, introduced a toast list in his usual happy style. Responses from the brethren and the visitors proved conclusively that Masonry is not in name alone, but practiced by every brother in and out of the lodge room.

Henderson Lodge, No. 388, Ilderton : Visited this lodge on 16th November, 1896. Very Wor. Bro. O. J. Bridle accompanied me. Doric Lodge Lobo, Delaware Valley, Delaware and Union Lodge, London, were represented. The lodge room was comfortably filled with members, this being the largest attendance during the year. From the visitors book I find that the officers have not received the hearty support from the brethren that is required to make a good live lodge. The room is neat in appearance and inviting and fairly well furnished. Ante room small. The officers were in their places during the evening, and appeared willing to do the work that is required of them in an efficient manner. A slightly nervous feeling was noticeable, owing no doubt to the lack of work throughout the year. There being no work on I asked Worshipful Bro. J. H. McCrae to open and close his lodge in the three degrees. They did so fairly well. I have every reason to believe if the attendance of P. M.'s and members were better this lodge would soon be in a healthy prosperous condition. The secretary, Bro. Ironsides, appears to be a painstaking official, and is very much interested in Craft Masonry. Since taking the office last July the books show a decided improvement. Already this is bearing fruit as the dues are coming in much better. My reception at Henderson was very cordial and given with that heartiness that characterizes Freemasons. Right Wor. Bro. Robson P.D. D. G. M., is a member of this lodge. He came in a little late but his presence was felt from the time he entered until the closing of the social hour about 12, after singing Auld Lang Syne. The prospects of this lodge are much brighter.

Cameron Lodge, No. 232, Dutton : Accompanied by Very Wor. Bro. O. J. Bridle and Wor. Bro. G. Morris, of Union, No. 380, I paid an official visit to this lodge on Nov. 18th, 1896. The lodge room is very comfortable and on this occasion was pretty well filled with enthusiastic Masons, as far as my reception at least. The Wor. Master and Senior Warden were absent, their places being filled by the Past Masters of the lodge. The work of opening and closing the lodge in the three degrees was done fairly well. The Junior Warden and Inner Guard appear to be willing to do their part in an efficient manner, but lack of material keeps them in the back ground. I instructed them where necessary and received every attention for the same. Bro. Poole, the Secretary, showed me through the books, which have been kept in a crude state, but under his care a marked improvement is noticeable. He says the greater part of the dues are collected in December and July and that he will make a special effort to have all in by

the end of the Masonic year. Wor. Bro. Dr. Guest, of Fingal, and Wor. Bro. Patterson, of Iona, and other visitors were present. After the lodge closed the visiting brethren were entertained by the lodge at a banquet in the hotel kept by Bro. McIntyre. I must congratulate the brethren of this lodge that they are among the best in this district for entertaining visitors. The toast list was taken in hand by Wor. Bro. Leitch, who is a master in the art, and the sentiments that were brought forth on this occasion were truly Masonic and patriotic. There is plenty of material in Dutton to make this a bright, prosperous lodge if the brethren will pay a little more attention to their lodge attendance and elect officers who will be present at each meeting. The prospects for the future are encouraging.

St. David's Lodge, No. 302, St. Thomas : On Nov. 19th, 1896, I visited this lodge in my official capacity. V. W. Bro. Bro. O. J. Bridle and W. Bro. G. F. Morris, of Union, No. 380, accompanied me. About sixty members and visitors were present. Among the number were : R. W. Bros. R. McKay and L. Slater, P. D. D. G. M.'s of this District ; V. W. Bros. S. Dubber and Bradshaw, and W. Bro. Harris, of Delaware, and L. Lang, Acacia, No. 61, Hamilton. I met with a hearty reception from the brethren present and found them very harmonious and enthusiastic. One candidate was raised to the sublime Degree of a M. M., in a manner second to none I have seen in my visits to the lodges in this district. The W. M., Bro. Scrase, and his officers, deserve great credit for the masterly manner in which they did their work, which left very little to criticise were I willing to do so. The Secretary, Bro. McConnell, keeps his books in a clear and neat form, showing that he too takes a deep interest in St. David's, No. 302. The dues are well paid up. The lodge room one of neatness ; ante rooms and furnishings all that is required for Masonic purposes and well insured. The prospects of this lodge I am pleased to report are very bright.

St. George's Lodge, No. 42, London : On Wednesday, Dec. the 2nd I paid an official visit to this lodge. This being the night of their election no degrees were conferred. I visited this lodge in October last unofficially when I saw W. Bro. Blanch and his officers confer the first and second degrees in an efficient manner, proving to me that the work is well looked after and uniform with the lodges in this district. I had the pleasure of meeting R. W. Bro. Munson, a Past District Deputy, and many other distinguished brethren of St. George's, No. 42, and others, on my official visit, and was received very enthusiastically by the large number of brethren present. This lodge elects all its officers by ballot ; on this occasion the utmost

harmony prevailed, each officer being elected unanimously on first ballot. St. George's royally entertained the visitors and brethren in the banqueting hall, after the lodge closed, to a most substantial repast, after which the usual toasts were given and capitally replied to.

Nilestown Lodge, No. 345, Nilestown : I visited this lodge on December the 15th, 1896. On account of this being the night of the annual At Home not many of their officers were in their places at the usual hour. The evening also turned out very rough and stormy, so much so that at first all thought the At Home, as well as the lodge meeting, would be a failure. The brethren present in the lodge room opened up and received me with G. L. honors. After the business of the lodge was concluded, W. Bro. McDougall, a Past Master, closed the lodge. All repaired to the lower story, where the concert part was carried out, quite a large number having assembled. I had the honor to preside as chairman, through the wishes of the lodge. The evening was spent in a happy manner by all present, and I am satisfied much good will result to this lodge by mingling the sexes together, as it is seldom the wives, mothers, and sisters of the brethren have an opportunity in this district of seeing brethren in their Masonic clothing, or how they act towards each other while assembled as Masons. Therefore Nilestown has set a good example in this respect. A misunderstanding between one of the brethren of this lodge and the lodge has existed for some time. The case was tried before me in London. I invited M. W. Bro. D. Spry to sit with me ; after due deliberation I submitted my ruling, which was accepted and the difficulty settled amicably. Nilestown is not growing in membership but their zeal for Masonry is very noticeable.

Merrill Lodge, No. 344, Dorchester Station : I visited on December 17th. A large number of the brethren and visiting brethren present. I was received with G. L. honors and paid all due respect to the office which I now hold, as the representative of the G. M. in this district. The Wor. Master and his Jr. Warden do the work in a very satisfactory manner. The Sr. Warden absent but his place was filled by a P. Wor. M. of the lodge. Two candidates were passed to the Fellow Craft Degree. Slight criticisms were indulged in in parts of the work, which will have its good effect as none of us are perfect. The lodge then closed in the second degree. There being a number of visitors present from Nilestown, Lambeth, London and Thamesford, a few of these were called on to address the brethren, which they did, with kindly words to members of Merrill Lodge, and the good of our Masonic Order in general. Very Wor. Bros. Shaw, Chittick and Bros. G. Wade

and others take an active interest in this lodge. The Secretary, Bro. Shaw, is also an active member as well as a good secretary. He looks well after the dues of the members, only three members being in arrears. The lodge closed in due time and all partook at a sumptuous and nicely appointed table, of good things that awaited the brethren. This lodge is in a prosperous condition as new members are coming in, and the dues well paid.

Union Lodge, No. 380, London: I paid an official visit to this my mother lodge on 11th Jan., 1897, and was heartily received by a large number of members and visitors, among the latter being R. W. Bro. Broderick, Past D. D. G. M., V. W. Bros. Callard and Toll, and several Past Masters of city lodges. This was the first night of the recently elected officers in their chairs. The lodge was raised to the third degree and one candidate raised to the sublime degree of a M. M. The work done by Wor. Bro. W. C. Fitzgerald and his officers was such as almost too perfect to criticise in the minutest part. Other lodges will pardon me if I speak in very high terms of Union Lodge. All in London are aware of the position held as regards the finances, but I am pleased to state that this lodge is out of debt and sound in every way. The credit is not due to any one particular. The harmony that exists in this lodge has been the means, with the noble co-operation of the Past Masters and the members, to place Union second to none in the district, and they have not been disappointed in their efforts. They boast of a set of officers equal to any, and a brother who steps over another in office from this out may feel proud. I had the honor of presenting a Past Master's gold jewel to Wor. Bro. G. F. Morris on this occasion of my visit. There is not a brother in Union Lodge who has been more faithful to his duties than he and none take a greater interest. I am indebted to him for many acts of kindness during my term of District Deputy of London District. The Secretary, Bro. Ward, is another faithful worker, keeps his books in a manner that pleases, with credit to himself and his lodge. In fact I look upon a Secretary as the life of a lodge. An enthusiastic Secretary means an enthusiastic lodge; such a one we find in Bro. Ward. The prospects of Union are very bright as portrayed by my predecessor, Rt. Wor. Bro. Rutherford.

Moffat Lodge, No. 399, Harrietsville: I drove a distance of eighteen miles to visit this lodge. The roads were in a fearfully rough state, which prevented many of the brethren being present, and some had other business to attend to on that night and could not possibly attend. Eight of the brethren received me with G. L. honors. The principal officers all were present

and in their places. I heard the minutes read by the secretary, J. J. Jelly ; at last regular meeting no work was on but the officers opened and closed in the different degrees. Had also held an emergency meeting to consider some communications. Had passed accounts and paid them. This village being the home of my childhood and until I reached manhood, I therefore have a deep interest in its welfare. The hall where they hold their meetings is nicely furnished and insured ; the ante-rooms a fair size. Membership nineteen, with prospects of three or four in the near future. The Worshipful Master has his work well up, as also the Senior and Junior Wardens, the three being young men and appear to take a deep interest in Masonry. I have not visited a lodge so far where I found more enthusiasm and greater zeal for the Craft than I have among the members of Moffat Lodge. I know many of them personally and know them to be good men and true. W. Bros. Facey, Kessler and others told me they have made many members, but a number of them, being young men, have gone to seek their fortunes elsewhere, the greater number taking their demits. The secretary, W. Bro. J. J. Jelly, understands and keeps his books in excellent shape and looks well after the arrearages, so much so that at this meeting only one brother was in arrears and a letter was read from him that he too wanted a little time and he would pay up. This lodge gave me five dollars to pay my expenses ; Grand Lodge dues are paid and the assessment from the District for P. D. D. G. M. regalia. I call this a prosperous lodge from the above.

Middlesex Lodge, No. 379, Bryanston : I visited on January the 13th, 1897 : W. Bro. Morris, of Union Lodge, No. 380, accompanied me. The attendance was not as large as I wished to see. In a measure this was made up by the enthusiastic reception I received by those present. There being no work I asked W. Bro. Johnston, the present Master, to open up in the several degrees. The work was fairly done by the officers. W. Bro. Nicholson, in the Junior Warden's chair, is an active and efficient officer. I have no doubt the present officers would do the work well had they the material forthcoming to encourage them. I was informed there are prospects of a candidate in the near future. During the past year they have had work. The lodge room is nicely fitted up and inviting. W. Bro. Roberts, a Past Master of this lodge, and the Treasurer, also, is an active worker ; in fact all that were present appears to have masonry at heart. If a little better attendance of those that were absent were indulged in, and they to take an interest, there is no reason this lodge should not be one of the leading rural ones, as the jurisdiction is thickly settled with prosperous

farmers. Bro. Smibert is an efficient Secretary as far as keeping his books neat, but the amount of arrearages is far too great for a lodge of twenty-three members. I urged him strongly to attend to this important part of the work, and to have them reduced by June next. They have plenty of money to pay all demands, and have done so. If the arrears were paid up they would have a nice surplus. I am able to report, therefore, this lodge as fairly prosperous.

Belmont Lodge, No. 190, Belmont: I visited January 15th, 1897. There was a fair attendance of members and a large number of visitors. W. Bro. Fitzgerald, of Union Lodge, No. 380, W. Bro. Essery, a Past Master of King Solomon Lodge, No. 378, and Bro. E. Flock, of Kilwinning Lodge, No. 64, accompanied me from London. There were present representatives from the lodges surrounding Belmont, namely, St. Thomas, Aylmer, Harrietsville, Dorchester Station, Nilestown and Lambeth. This lodge, each year, has an annual supper on their meeting night in January. Luckily we struck that night, and the spread was a magnificent one, to which, I think, all did ample justice. W. Bro. Potts, the newly elected Wor. Master, and his officers, initiated a candidate with the help of R. W. Bro. J. Boyd, P. D. D. G. M., who is a member of this lodge, and also Secretary, and, as we in this district know, one of our most enthusiastic Masons. The work was done remarkably well, being the first night for the newly installed officers to fill the respective chairs, and with a little more practice the work will be done faultless. The Wor. Master is enthusiastic. The Senior Warden, Dr. Meldrum, will be an officer in whom Belmont may well feel proud, for he will conform to the letter in the working of the lodge. Bro. Moore, the Junior Warden, has every appearance of giving equal satisfaction, and with such an efficient Secretary, up-to-date Treasurer, and new blood coming in, we may rest assured that the future of Belmont Lodge is in capable hands. The lodge room is suitable for Masonic work, and almost clear of debt. They are about to pay \$100 on the mortgage which they have now in the treasury. This will leave \$100 more to pay, and when wiped off Belmont Lodge, No. 190, will be the possessors of a neatly equipped hall, and their own. Harmony appears to exist in every member's heart; their members are few, no doubt owing largely to the constant drain on this lodge by a number of their members leaving and becoming charter members of three other lodges near by. Prospects are encouraging.

Corinthian Lodge, No. 330, London East: Was visited by me on Feb. 2nd, 1897, and I received a most hearty welcome from a large number of the brethren of this lodge and a num-

ber of visitors, among the last number was Rt. Wor. Bro. A. E. Cooper, P. D. D. G. M. of this district, and other distinguished brethren. The work on hand was the second degree and it was exemplified on two candidates by the capable Wor. Master Bro. Cowper and his officers in a very satisfactory manner. This lodge is well officered and the Past Masters take an active part in making this one of the best working lodges in the district. The movements in the floor work are simply faultless, being done in military time. Many visit this lodge for the purpose of witnessing the work and all leave satisfied that they have seen the work done with credit to the lodge, the officers and the Masonic fraternity. I had the pleasure of presenting the Immediate Past Master, Wor. Bro. Munroe, on behalf of the lodge, with a beautiful Past Master's Jewel. No Wor. Master has filled the chair with more credit to himself than he. The veteran, Very Wor. Bro. O. J. Bridle, was next called, and on behalf of the Past Masters and a few of his warm friends I had the pleasure on their behalf of presenting him with a beautiful Past Grand Steward's apron in appreciation of his high standing in the craft. Then Very Wor. Bro. Peter Toll, Gr. St., was asked to advance, and on behalf of the lodge and warm admirers I presented him with a Past Grand Steward's apron. These brethren were taken very much by surprise, each replied briefly. All are held in very high esteem by their Corinthian brethren. The Secretary, Very Wor. Bro. Simpson, is an experienced one ; his books are in good shape. This lodge stands well to the front in this district.

Doric Lodge, No. 289, Lobo : On March the 18th I paid an official visit to this lodge. Wor. Bro. G. F. Morris, of Union, No. 380, accompanied me. The roads were in almost an impassable way, yet twenty-four of the brethren were present, among them five Past Masters. Wor. Bro. A. D. Graham, with his staff of officers, passed one candidate in a very efficient manner, very little room being left for criticism, the staff of officers being well up in their work. All the P. M.'s appear to take a lively interest in this lodge, so much so that the name of Doric is known all over the West as a lodge looking closely after the ancient landmarks and established usages of our loved Order. The Secretary, Wor. Bro. W. L. Graham, looks well after his part of the work by keeping his books in an up-to-date manner, allowing no member to run behind without being thoroughly warned. His prompt answer to all correspondence makes it easy work with a D. D. G. M. to gain knowledge of the working of the lodge. I should not particularize any officer in this lodge as all work with a will. The lodge room

and ante-rooms are quite suitable for Masonic conveniences and owned by the lodge. A beautiful place for brethren to meet together at least once a month and spend a couple of hours. This lodge is doing good work and my report is very satisfactory. After lodge was closed we adjourned to the hotel, where a beautiful spread of good things were waiting us and where all did ample justice to the inner man. Doric, Lobo, entertains well, and the brother who is so fortunate to be in Lobo on lodge night should not fail to pay them a visit as every one will receive a hearty welcome.

Warren Lodge, No. 120, Fingal: I visited on April 13th, being met at Shedden by Wor. Bro. Dr. Guest, who looked after my welfare and allowed me to share the hospitalities of his lovely home. He drove me to Fingal, a distance of about two miles where the lodge is held. About twenty-four of the brethren met me there, some from a distance, viz.: V. W. Bro. Dubber, Wor. Bro. G. Strecks and Wor. Bro. Fraser, of St. Thomas Lodge, No. 44, and Wor. Bros. Patterson and McCallum, of Prince of Wales Lodge, Iona, No. 171. I was received with the customary honors very heartily given. There being no work on for the evening, I asked the Wor. Master and officers to open up in the several degrees, which they did very satisfactorily indeed, showing that Warren Lodge is in keeping with the work as laid down by Grand Lodge. Wor. Bro. Guest and the members appear to work in great harmony with each other for the advancement of Masonry and Warren Lodge in particular. The Secretary, Wor. Bro. T. R. Elsie, keeps his books in good shape and looks well after the arrearages, is prompt to answer communications, and makes a satisfactory Secretary. The lodge owns the building, which is nicely furnished, and finances in good shape. In the course of my remarks I strongly urged on the members in Warren Lodge and Prince of Wales, Iona, to amalgamate and build a lodge in Shedden, which for lodge purposes certainly would be more central and by coming together they would make one good strong lodge. I hope some day for the good of Masonry in this part of the district to see them amalgamate in the near future. Warren has been doing some good work this winter, yet the removal to Shedden would be the means of many others joining. The prospects are good, but with the above a very bright future would be in store for these lodges.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & M. A. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in London District, No. 3, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE.	MEMBERSHIP.		Degree's conf.	LOCATION.										Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	Meet-ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief.	No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all Arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
		Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.		Decrease during year.	E. A.	F. C.	M. M.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.				Regular.	Total.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										

HURON DISTRICT, No. 4.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I have the honor of presenting the following report on the condition of Masonry in the 4th Masonic District.

I take this opportunity of thanking the brethren of the district for conferring upon me the honor of D. D. G. M. of this district. The position has often been filled and the duties performed by more diligent hands and the secrets of Masonry so often expounded by abler workmen than myself, I entered upon my duties presuming more upon your indulgence than relying upon my own skill, and especially is this so when I call to mind the distinguished brethren who in years past have filled so acceptably to the Craft and so creditably to themselves the position of D. D. G. M. of this district. And I hope that when the square shall be applied to my work, if it shall not be found as perfect as that of my predecessors, it at least will be found to contain something of value to the Craft for instruction, encouragement or incitement to more ardent devotion to the principles of our beloved Order and more earnest labor for its welfare.

During my term of office I held a Lodge of Instruction at St. Mary's, April 5th, when 115 members were present. The first degree was exemplified by Stratford Lodge, the second by New Dominion, New Hamburg, and the third by St. James, St. Mary's. All three lodges did their work excellently, showing that they had thoroughly prepared themselves by repeated rehearsals and grinding, the only mode to be adopted to obtain efficiency. The interest taken by those present at the Lodge of Instruction evidenced the appreciation and interest the surrounding officers have paid to the work. This lodge was the means of settling many little points of difference in rendering the ritual and making the work in the district uniform.

In my visiting I endeavored as much as possible to get the officers of adjacent lodges to attend and witness the conferring of degrees, and enter into criticisms. The result has been good, broadening the views of officers in reference to the busi-

ness methods of the lodge, performance of the floor work and extending the friendship among Masons, each visit being a small Lodge of Instruction.

In order to further the spirit of friendly criticism I endeavored to arrange a Joint Lodge of Instruction with the D. D. G. M. of North Huron, but he did not think it conducive to the advancement of his district, so I had to abandon that effort; but I hope my successor may be more fortunate and complete such an arrangement.

Immediately after my election I appointed Bro. W. D. Fair, of Clinton, the District Secretary. He accompanied me in many of my visits and rendered much assistance.

Masonry in the district is in a very healthy condition. Though there has not been much increase in numbers there has been a little, and considering the financial state of affairs, and the many other societies convassing the country, we feel qualified there has been any increase. There has been material progress noticed in the more thorough and systematic rendering of the work, more attention being paid to the methods of detail than mere repetition.

Every lodge is anxious to learn, and my criticisms were received in a friendly spirit.

The prosperity of the district is in a great measure due to the energy enthused into it by the previous D. D. G. M.'s, and my work has been lessened thereby.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have granted the following dispensations: Stratford Lodge, No. 332; Tecumseh Lodge, No. 144; St. James, St. Mary's, No. 73; Clinton Lodge, No. 84, for the purpose of attending Divine Service, for which I enclose the fees.

EXPENSES.

The majority of the lodges defray the District Deputy's expenses willingly, while some others contribute nothing.

VISITS.

St. James Lodge, No. 73, St. Mary's: I paid an official visit to this lodge on the 1st of March. This lodge is gaining in strength and bids fair to be among the best. Wor. Bro. O'Brien is very anxious to do his work well and he is ably assisted by his officers. He conferred a third degree and did it well, though only in the chair three months. The nervousness shown on my visit was completely gone a month later at the Lodge of Instruction, when the surroundings were not by any

means conducive to assist a nervous officer. There are many old and enthusiastic Masons in this lodge who are ever ready to counsel the younger members, among them being R. A. Bro. Sharp, W. Bros. Moscrip and Richardson. The management of the lodge by this lodge was excellent and they have the hearty thanks of the district.

Irving Lodge, No. 154, Lucan : I visited this lodge on June 15th. Secretary Irwin showed me the lodge books and I found arrears of dues amounting to \$120, most of these delinquents being two and three years behind ; in many cases those members are well able to pay up. I suggested one month's notice and if not paid suspend all over one year in arrears. I found that this lodge has not initiated a candidate for three years and in 1896 only seven meetings were held. W. Bro. Ellwood, a P. M. of ten years' standing, has filled the W. M.'s chair for this year. He exemplified the first degree in a fairly satisfactory manner, especially so when he has not conferred a degree for so many years. R. W. Bro. Sutton, P. D. D. G. M., who is a member of this lodge, was present and with the other P. M.'s have promised before another report goes in new life will be enthused into the lodge.

Britannia Lodge, No. 170, Seaforth : I visited this lodge on May 3rd. W. Bro. Scarlet in the chair. He conferred a third degree upon a candidate. Seaforth still retains its reputation as being one of the best lodges in the district, the officers from the Master to the Inner Guard doing their work systematically and correctly, special mention being made of the Senior Deacon. The fees of this lodge are well collected by the Secretary, with the result that the financial affairs of the lodge are in a healthy condition.

Morning Star Lodge, No. 309, Carlow : In company with ten of the members of Clinton Lodge, including the officers and seven from Goderich, I visited this Lodge on June 9th. This lodge is composed almost entirely of farmers. They own the room, have refreshment rooms and stabling in connection, the whole making complete quarters. Refreshments are served every lodge meeting. The business affairs are in a healthy condition. A good deal of charity is distributed to brothers in need. P. M. Bro. Munro filled the Master's chair and conferred the first degree very creditably though out of the chair for some years. The W. M. was present, but owing to his having just buried his wife did not feel equal to filling his position. The Wardens showed lack of thoroughness with inclination to substitution. I would advise the election of officers who would get the work up thoroughly and make a point to have frequent rehearsals. The number generally are very enthusiastic, coming

long distances and practicing the principles of Masonry more than other lodges of more pretensions. The officers of Clinton Lodge conferred the third degree upon a candidate in a very satisfactory manner. P. D. D. G. M. Bro. Beck is a member of this lodge, and though living seven miles away is a frequent attendant and was present at my visit, giving words of encouragement.

Stratford Lodge, No. 332, Stratford : I visited the lodge on Dec. 14th. W. Bro. Whitechurch in the chair. The reception given me was the best in the jurisdiction, over 100 members being present, many Grand Lodge and Past Grand Lodge officers being among the number. The work as exemplified by the officers of this lodge at my visit, and at the Lodge of Instruction held at St. Mary's, was excellently rendered, making the work very impressive. The appliances and lodge-room are admirably arranged so as to assist the officers materially. Every officer is thoroughly posted, and can fill all the offices above and below them if necessary. This is one of lodges in the district that is making rapid progress, and the advancement is healthy and stable.

Maitland Lodge, No. 33, Goderich : In company with V. W. Bro. Holloway we visited this lodge on March 9th. Bro. N. Crystal, W. M., in the chair. He conferred a Fellowcraft degree. Bro. Crystal is a very enthusiastic officer, and can do his work well. Much of the progress of this lodge is due to his efforts, but I cannot say that his assistants take the same interest in the work ; they lack that decision which comes only with rehearsals, and if so posted would materially assist the Master. This lodge counts among its members many Past Grand Lodge officers who usually attend the meetings.

Lebanon Forest Lodge, No. 133, Exeter : I visited the Lodge on May 16th, Wor. Bro. Davis in the chair. He conferred the Fellowcraft degree upon a candidate. The W. M. has had very little chance of becoming expert in his work, as he had just recently been elected and had very little work on hand, but I think with more experience he will have the Lodge in better condition. This Lodge has an excellent past record when it has been officered by R. W. Bro. Collins, and other distinguished brethren, and will I hope soon be back to its old position in the district.

Tudor Lodge, No. 141, Mitchell : On March 16th I visited this Lodge. W. Bro. Babb in the chair. The W. M. conferred the second degree. I was exceedingly pleased with the smoothness of the work of this Lodge. All the officers were present and prepared with their work. The present officers are ably assisted by W. Bros. Cameron, Elliot and Hind, who

take a deep interest in the Craft. I also met W. Bro. White, P. D. D. G. M., a member of this lodge who keeps up with the times in Masonry.

Clinton, No. 84, Clinton: I made two official visits to this lodge; my first while V. W. Bro. Holloway was in the chair, on December 18th. No work was done on this visit as it was the election of officers. I had seen Bro. Holloway exemplify all the degrees and know him to be one of the best workers in the district. On my second visit on May 27th, the lodge had made a special effort to have a good reception and had invited all the unaffiliated members to be present, thinking by this means to bring those within a closer touch with Masonry and bring them into the fold again—an act to be commended. Other lodges might adopt this with profit. R. W. Bros. Beck, Hodgens, W. Bros. Humber, Allan, Crystal, and Holloway were present, besides many others from adjacent lodges. The officers of this lodge deserve much praise for the manner they acquitted themselves in conferring the third degree. From the W. M., Bro. Bruce, down to the Inner Guard, the work was so well done that little fault could be found. The Inner Guard was especially praiseworthy, being the best in the district. One thing this lodge outstrips all the others is the non-payment of dues, over \$200 in arrears. There is no excuse for any lodge to allow such a state of matters, and it is to be hoped that before another report comes in there will be a material change, for where the finances are not on a firm footing the lodge will soon deteriorate.

Wilmot Lodge, No. 318, Baden: I visited this lodge on May 14th. The third degree was exemplified by W. Bro. Walker. The candidate did not present himself so one of the brethren became a volunteer. The W. M. did his work very well but his Wardens showed lack of confidence that rehearsals, if practised, would remove. The Inner Guard was first-class; the appointed officers were nearly all absent and of course those filling them had not the experience necessary for proper assistance to the W. M. W. Bros. Erback and John Livingstone take a great interest in the lodge, making a point to be always present and willing to fill any office assigned to them, to keep up the interest. W. Bro. Martz and Bro. Sholtz, of New Hamburg, were present. In fact these brethren never miss an opportunity of visiting neighboring lodges, with the result that they are among the best workers in the district.

Tecumseh Lodge, No. 144, Stratford: On June 18th I visited this lodge. There was an attendance of fifty. R. W. Bros. Harding, McKellar and MacFadden being present. W. Bro. Mooney and his officers exemplified the third degree.

Any lodge in the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge can learn something by seeing Tecumseh at their work. Very little was left for me to criticise adversely, but much to be said about the perfection attained by this lodge, favored with a fine room, the most complete system of lighting in Canada, the finest apparatus. The rendering of the ritual was indeed impressive. This lodge has had some excellent Masters in the chair, among them being R. W. Bros. Harding, McKellar and W. Bro. Stewart, who have assisted to bring this lodge to its present high standing.

Doric Lodge, No. 233, Park Hill: I visited this lodge on Dec 4th, accompanied by six of the Clinton brethren. The W. M., Bro. Wedd, conferred the second degree upon a candidate in a very satisfactory manner. The Wardens performing their duties in a manner, showing that they were interested in the work, but the junior officers were not present, their places being filled by some of the Past Masters, who by the way are enthusiastic, R. W. Bro. Dawson, P. D. D. G. M., filling the Junior Deacon's chair. Though this lodge has not increased in numbers recently a healthy condition prevails.

Zurich Lodge, No. 224, Hensal: In company with several of the Clinton members I visited this lodge on 15th September. W. Bro. Davis in the chair. This lodge has not made the progress it is entitled to these last few years. At the time of my visit the officers could not exemplify the degrees in a manner acceptable to your representatives. They met in a room occupied by the Oddfellows, a practice condemned by Grand Lodge. Since my visit the present W. M. has informed me that they have leased a hall of their own for a term of years and fitted it up for Masonic duties alone. After this I look for better things from Zurich Lodge.

New Dominion Lodge, No. 205, New Hamburg: I visited this lodge on March 22nd, accompanied by thirty of the brethren from Stratford, W. Bro. Marty in the chair, who exemplified the second degree. This is one of the lodges in the district that has made rapid strides during the past year. It is now numbered among the best, while a few years ago it was the opposite. The members take much interest in lodge affairs, for at my visit about ninety were present, among them being R. W. Bros. McLellan, McKellar, W. Bros. Whitechurch and Mooney, and R. W. Bro. Allshire, D. D. G. M., of Wilson District. This lodge also exemplified the Fellowcraft degree at the Lodge of Instruction at St. Mary's, and received many compliments from those present. The dues of this lodge are away behind, and require attention at once or there will soon be felt the ill effects that are bound to follow.

Blyth Lodge, No. 303 : Visited this lodge on February the 23rd. Owing to the very stormy condition of the weather the attendance was not as large as usual. The W. M. is Bro. J. Ross, who conferred the third degree. I. P. M. Bro. Tiernay also conferred the second degree. All the work was well done, all the officers showing confidence in themselves. Excellent work has been and is yet exemplified in this lodge. As I have been a constant visitor to this lodge for years I was able to make a comparison and discern the harmony existing among the brethren and the progress of the lodge. Much credit is due W. Bro. Ouimette for his persistent attention to the ritualistic part of the work.

Before closing my report I wish to thank the brethren for the manner in which I have been received and for the excellent support tendered me in the execution of my duties.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

J. W. SHAW, D. D. G. M.,
South Huron District, No. 4.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in South Huron District, No. 4, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Mem-ber-ship.	Degree's conf'r'd		Abili-tations.	Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet-ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief	No of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
						E. A.	F. C.							M. M.	Regular.	Emergent.										Total.
73	St. James.	St. Mary's.	63	...	8	5	2	3	...	1	1	7	1	13	215	18	\$1250	16	\$90 25	July 24, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	\$500 00	
24	Zurich.	Hensall.	37	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	12	113	12	10 00	2	70 50	Jan. 14, '97.	Good.	Good.	Yes	100 00
233	Doric.	Park Hill.	36	10	2	3	2	3	...	2	6	...	1	9	110	15	.....	11	150 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	1500 00
144	Tecumseh.	Stratford.	115	6	15	16	13	1	1	6	4	...	1	13	720	41	76 00	20	186 25	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00	
81	Clinton.	Clinton.	65	4	2	4	4	4	...	1	3	...	...	14	14	21	10 00	28	107 50	Dec. 28, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
141	Tudor.	Mitchell.	42	5	2	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	13	13	14	5 00	11	75 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	Yes.
33	Maitland.	Goderich.	101	5	7	7	9	2	...	2	...	...	2	12	618	26	65 00	10	30 00	Feb., '97.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	300 00
133	Lebanon Forest.	Exeter.	73	3	2	2	1	...	4	4	1	2	1	13	215	20	5 00	10	82 25	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	1500 00	
332	Stratford.	Stratford.	133	9	15	13	12	1	...	4	2	5	...	14	115	25	20 00	23	59 50	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00	
170	Britannia.	Seaforth.	74	4	1	1	1	2	...	3	5	...	...	11	115	...	15 00	...	...	June 24, '96.	Fair.	Not good	Yes	400 00
303	Blyth.	Blyth.	59	5	3	5	5	...	2	6	...	...	...	11	112	10	...	30	100 00	Dec. 28, '96.	Fair.	Good.	Yes	200 00
151	Irving.	Lucan.	56	6	2	5	5	2	...	1	...	...	...	13	215	16	7 00	16	148 00	June 24, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
295	New Dominion.	New Hamburg.	36	6	2	5	5	6	1	...	3	...	1	13	215	11	10 00	10	57 00	June 4, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	400 00	
318	Wilnot.	Baden.	32	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	10	30	20 00	34	229 00	Dec., '91.	Good.	Better.	Yes	600 00
309	Morn'g Star.	Carlow.	39	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Yes	...

NORTH HURON DISTRICT, NO 5.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN:

In conformity with the regulations of Grand Lodge I have the honor to submit the following report of the proceedings and progress of Masonry in and for North Huron District, No. 5.

My first official act after returning from Belleville was to appoint W. Bro Days, of Old Light Lodge, No. 184, District Secretary, and I now most cordially thank him for the very material assistance he has been to me in the discharge of my duty.

I also appointed Rev. Bro. Franklin, District Chaplain, to whom I am indebted for valuable assistance.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Owing to the geographical formation and inconvenience of train accomodation for the whole district, I after consulting with the leading members of different lodges considered it advisable to hold two Lodges of Instruction, and from the manner in which the lodges were represented at each I feel satisfied that this was a wise procedure, as nearly all the lodges in the District were represented. The first Lodge of Instruction was held in the Masonic Hall at the town of Wingham on the 27th day of April. Seven lodges of the district were represented, beside a number of visiting brethren from Toronto, Kingston, London, St. Thomas and other places. Here I had the assistance of R. W. Bros. DeWitt H. Martyn, D. E. Campbell, J. A. Morton and V. W. Bros. M. McD. Fleming and Thos. Bell, who by their presence and advice made it one of the most plesant and profitable meetings that has ever been held in the district. The first degree was exemplified by W. Bro. W. Irwin and officers of Bernard Lodge, No. 225, Listowel, in such a manner as drew forth the approbation and applause of all the brethren present. Every brother, from the stalwart Inner Guard to the W. M., acted with energy, efficiency and promptness. The Junior Warden, Bro. Bluett, giving the lecture on the tracing board in a most creditable manner.

The second degree was exemplified by W. Bro. Bryan and officers of Old Light Lodge, No. 184, Lucknow, and even if it be so that the brethren are of my own lodge I am compelled to give credit where credit is due. I was perfectly satisfied with the work done.

The third degree was exemplified by W. Bro. J. Golley and officers of Wingham Lodge, No. 286, Wingham. The lodge appointments and the use of the emblems being materially improved by the electric light. I am glad to say that criticism was uncalled for, the work by these brethren being also done to my satisfaction.

The second Lodge of Instruction was held under the auspices of Saugeen Lodge, No. 197, in the town of Walkerton, on the 2nd day of June, 1897, when ten lodges of the district were represented, besides a large number of brethren from other lodges without the district. I am especially indebted to R. W. Bros. Martyn, Telford, Green and Goodier, and V. W. Bros. Harris, Clark and Fleming for their very kind and fraternal assistance.

The first degree was exemplified by W. Bro. S. Wilton and officers of St. John's Lodge, No. 284, Brussels, and only for a little nervousness on the part of several officers would have been considered perfect, the Junior Warden giving the lecture on the tracing boards in a very masterly manner.

The second degree was exemplified by W. Bro. J. F. Chit-tick and officers of Moravian Lodge, No. 431, Eden Grove. The work done was so satisfactory that all present expressed their general approval.

The third degree exemplified by W. Bro. C. Petteplace, assisted by W. Bro. Birss and other P. M.'s of Saugeen Lodge, No. 197, Walkerton, was a masterpiece of work.

COMPLAINTS.

In May last a complaint was made by Wingham Lodge, No. 286, Wingham, against Blyth Lodge, No. 303, for violation of the provisions of the constitution, and infringement of the territorial jurisdiction of Wingham Lodge. As Blyth Lodge is located in District No. 4, South Huron, and I not having complete jurisdiction over Blyth Lodge, this matter has been referred to the most Worshipful the Grand Master, all papers in connection with this affair being forwarded to him by me. I am in hopes that it will be amicably settled.

DEATHS.

Only three deaths have been reported to me during the year, viz.: Bro. Thomas Stile, of Wingham Lodge, No. 286, Wingham.

ham, M. M., was accompanied by the brethren to the station at Wingham and conveyed to St. John's, near London, Ont., where he was interred. Bro. McKenzie, M. M., was interred on March 23rd, 1897, by the brethren of St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 131, Southampton, in Port Elgin cemetery. The brethren of Port Elgin Lodge, No. 429, meeting and assisting in the ceremony. Bro. Geo. Willis, M. M., died Feb. 1st, 1897, was not buried by the Craft, the Orange Order taking charge of the body.

ARREARAGE.

While I am pleased to observe that there has been a marked decrease in the amount of arrearage throughout the district, yet some of the lodges, either through indolence on the part of the Secretary or a mistaken fraternal friendship, allow members to fall in arrears for one or more years. This state of affairs should not be allowed to exist as it is apt to produce habits of indifference on the part of the delinquents, which might in many cases have been avoided if half-yearly audits were adopted and the financial standing of each brother would be brought to his notice.

CONDITIONS OF MASONRY.

It affords me much pleasure to be able to note that there has been a steady increase of first-class material within the jurisdiction, notwithstanding the financial depression throughout the country. Fraternal visits are frequent between the members of different lodges and a desire on the part of the members to become proficient in the work. With the exception of one lodge all the W. Masters of the district are able to open and close the lodge in the three degrees and confer all the degrees, and there seems to be an earnest desire on the part of the members to receive instruction.

All the Secretaries in the district are most efficient and earnestly desire to carry out the instruction of the respective lodges.

DISPENSATIONS.

I granted six dispensations to attend Divine Service during the year as follows: Old Light Lodge, No. 184, Lucknow on August 16th, 1896; Fordwich Lodge, No. 331, Fordwich, on Oct. 12th, 1896; Old Light Lodge, No. 184, Lucknow, on June 20th, 1897; Cedar Lodge, No. 396, Wiarton, on June 27th, 1897; Bernard Lodge, No. 225, Listowel, on June 27th, 1897; St. John's Lodge, No. 284, Brussels, on July 4th, 1897.

I was also asked for a dispensation by Cedar Lodge, No. 396, Wiarton, in February last to elect and instal on the same

evening the W. M. and Secretary, but as this was not within my power I refused it, they afterwards receiving a dispensation from the Most Worshipful the Grand Master for that purpose.

VISITS.

There are nineteen lodges in the district, all of which have been visited, several of them twice. In all of the lodges I find the officers and members desirous of promoting and fostering the best interests of Masonry. I was received in all the lodges by both officers and brethren in the most cordial and fraternal spirit, and I am pleased now to acknowledge with thanks the many acts of kindness I received while paying my official visits.

Burns Lodge, No. 436, Hepworth: As directed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master on Sept. 22nd, 1896, assisted by R. W. Bro. Dr. Wilson, V. W. Bro. McDonald, W. Bros. Dr. McNally, D. Paterson and other visiting brethren from neighboring lodges, I instituted and consecrated this lodge and presented them with the warrant of Constitution. Immediately following this ceremony I installed W. Bro. J. E. Campbell as first Master and the other officers of the lodge. After the ceremony a very pleasant and social time was spent, at which the fourth degree was well exemplified. I again visited this lodge on the 1st day of June, 1897, when W. Bro. Wittham and officers exemplified the third degree very creditably. The pleasure of this visit was materially enhanced by the presence of R. W. Bro. Walmsley, my predecessor, as also a number of brethren from Cedar Lodge, Wiarton.

Fordwich Lodge, No. 331, Fordwich: Visited this lodge on the 15th day of October, 1896, when I had the pleasure of meeting V. W. Bro. Flemming, Grand Steward, W. Bro. Brooks and other brethren of Bernard Lodge, No. 225, Listowel. This lodge has not been in as flourishing a condition as it should have been, but I am pleased to note that following the advice of my predecessor, R. W. Bro. Walmsley, the Secretary, Bro. Dr. Spence, has very largely succeeded in reducing the unpaid dues. W. Bro. Alex. Wyness and officers exemplified the first degree and opened and closed the three degrees very satisfactorily. W. Bro. Wyness is a most enthusiastic Mason and I look forward to brighter days for this lodge.

Teeswater Lodge, No. 276, Teeswater: Was visited at a regular meeting held Oct. 16th, 1896. This lodge, which has been for a number of years in a semi-dormant state, over which the present officers have had little or no control, is now showing evidence of vitality, and I hope that in the near future, under the guidance of W. Bro. Dr. Stewart, it will be in a most flourishing condition. The second degree was exemplified

fairly well. The officers seemed desirous of making themselves efficient in the work. This ought to make a first-class lodge.

Bruce Lodge, No. 341, Tiverton : Was visited on January 12th, 1897, at a regular meeting, where, assisted by R. W. Bro. Martyn and V. W. Bro. MacPherson, Grand Steward, and W. Bro. Bro. D. Paterson, I installed W. Bro. Jno. S. Evans W. M., D. A. McLaren S. W. and John A. McKenzie J. W., and the other officers of the lodge. After the installation the newly installed W. M. and officers conferred the third degree in such a manner as to call forth the approbation of all the brethren present. This lodge is in a very healthy condition. The members of Northern Light Lodge, Kincardine, take a very lively interest in the progress and prosperity of this lodge and, as should be, a very warm fraternal feeling exists between the lodges.

St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 131, Southampton : This is the second oldest lodge in the district. Was visited on the 13th day of January, 1897, when a large number of brethren were present. The members of this lodge are principally seamen and during the summer months are absent, consequently not so many meetings have been held as might otherwise have been the case if differently situated. The brethren are very zealous and enthusiastic in whatever they undertake and the work as exemplified by W. Bro. McAuley and officers would do credit to more pretentious lodges. Financially they are very comfortable and in their relief donations very liberal. There is a little difficulty however that will have to be carefully watched, yet I trust that my successor will succeed in amicably adjusting.

Port Elgin Lodge, No. 429, Port Elgin : Visited this lodge on January 14, 1897, at a regular meeting. There was a large attendance of the brethren, and a number of visiting brethren from St. Lawrence and other lodges. The first degree was conferred by W. Bro. Smith and officers of the lodge in a very creditable manner, Bro. George, J. W., giving the lecture on the tracing board very impressively. This lodge is very prosperous, and considerable zeal and enthusiasm is displayed by its officers and members.

Aldworth Lodge, No. 235, Paisley : Was visited on January 15, 1897, at a regular meeting. There was a fair attendance of members, with visiting brethren from Eden Grove and Glammings. W. Bro. W. R. Barnett and officers exemplified the first degree, and opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees satisfactorily. Here we had the experience of a fire that might have proved very serious. A lamp in the stairway exploding, setting fire to the stair and cutting off all means of

retreat. Only for the strenuous exertion of the brethren in beating down the fire with overcoats it might have proved fatal to all present. This lodge is not in as prosperous a condition as its surroundings would indicate, but as they are now moving into more central and commodious premises it is to be hoped that it will be the beginning of a more prosperous era. The brethren seemed to be all zealous in the cause.

Wingham Lodge, No. 286, Wingham : Visited this lodge on February 2nd, 1897, at a regular meeting. This is one of the best equipped lodges in the district, and it is unnecessary to state that the work done is excellent under the careful supervision of R. W. Bro. Morton, who always expects to have it letter perfect. The first degree was conferred by W. Bro. Golley and officers in a manner to reflect credit on any lodge. A steady progress is evinced, and a net gain was made during the year of three members.

Northern Light Lodge, No. 93, Kincardine : This is the oldest and wealthiest Lodge in North Huron District. The attendance is also the largest. I made two visits during the year, the first being on the 3rd day of November, 1896, when I had the honor and pleasure of meeting with Most Worshipful Bro. Wm. Gibson, present Grand Master, and R. W. Bros. Martyn and Collins, and V. W. Bro. Macpherson, Grand Steward. W. Bro. F. Collins, assisted by the officers, conferred the first degree, which received the approbation of all the distinguished visitors. My second visit was made on February 3rd, 1897, at a regular meeting, when W. Bro. F. Collins and officers conferred the third degree very satisfactorily. On both occasions the fourth degree was exemplified in the spacious hall adjoining the lodge-room, where the large number of brethren present did their part well. Everything the officers of Northern Light undertake to do they do well.

Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 362, Tara : Was visited February the 15th, at a regular meeting. The W. M. and officers conferred the second degree in such a manner as to evince that they were all proficient in their work. This lodge is making steady progress with good material. R. W. Bro. Dr. Wilson, P. D. D. G. M., whom I had the pleasure to meet here, is a most enthusiastic Mason, and under his care the prosperity of Maple Leaf is assured. A number of brethren from Chesley and Hepworth were present.

Cedar No. 396, Wiarton : I visited this lodge on February the 16th, 1897, and found the officers well posted in the work. The first degree was conferred by W. Bro. Ferguson and officers, which fully proved their proficiency. I have to thank R. W. Bro. Wamsley for his kindness while visiting and for the very

friendly reception I received from the brethren. Cedar Lodge is flourishing without a doubt.

Forest Lodge, No. 393, Chesley : An emergency meeting was called by Forest Lodge for my official visit on February 17th, 1897. The third degree was conferred by W. Bro. Wash, G. Collins and officers particularly well. The lodge possesses all modern appliances and is fully equipped for doing excellent work. All the officers are well up in their work and this lodge should make steady progress.

Hanover Lodge, No. 432, Hanover : I visited this lodge on February 18th, 1897, at an emergency meeting at which nine brethren were present. The lodge was opened and closed by the W. M. in the three degrees. The W. M. was unable to confer any of the degrees, so I contented myself by giving instructions. As there was a prospect of work in view I made arrangements with W. Bro. J. B. Taylor, of St. John's Lodge, Toronto, to take a fraternal charge and confer the degrees. This he has done. Two candidates have been added to the number, and as they propose securing a new hall there is hope yet for Hanover.

Saugeen Lodge, No. 197, Walkerton : Visited this lodge on March 9th, 1897, at a regular meeting. Here I met R. W. Bros. Telford and Green, both of whom take a lively interest in Masonic affairs. The first degree was exemplified by W. Bro. Birss, assisted by several P. M.'s and officers of the lodge, in a manner to sustain the reputation hitherto maintained. This lodge is making marked progress and is one of our best lodges.

Moravian, No. 431, Eden Grove : My visit to this lodge was made on March 10th, 1897, at an emergency meeting, at which a large number of brethren were present. Here I had the assistance of R. W. Bro. Telford, who takes a lively interest in the welfare of this lodge. This is the most progressive lodge in the district, having added eleven to their number during the past year. W. Bros. Pinkerton and Duggan, most enthusiastic Masons, seem to have infused into all the members a part of their enthusiasm. Perfect harmony prevails. The first degree was conferred by W. Bro. Chittick and officers.

Bernard Lodge, No. 225, Listowel : I visited Bernard Lodge on March 12th, 1897, at a regular meeting, with a very good attendance. This lodge has the counsel of one of the most enthusiastic P. D. D. G. M.'s to be met with, viz., R. W. Bro. D. D. Campbell. Bernard Lodge is making its way to the front rank and has the best lodge room in the district. The W. M. and officers and P. M.'s conferred the first degree upon two candidates and by the division of labor made it both

pleasant and profitable. A pleasing feature of the evening was the presentation of a very handsome P. M.'s Jewel to W. Bro. Beardman, who was the first initiated candidate into Bernard Lodge. This lodge is also making some progress.

Forest Lodge, No. 162, Wroxeter: Visited this lodge on March 15th, 1897, at a regular meeting, with a very good attendance of visitors from Brussels, Fordwich, and R. W. Bro. Morton with a large contingent from Wingham. This is the third oldest lodge in the district and I regret to say that owing in a measure to internal dissensions and loss of some of its best material, is almost in a state of collapse. The present W. M., Bro. Jno. Barnard, is most efficient, but he is not very well supported by the subordinate officers. This lodge has been paying into Grand Lodge for a number of years dues for members that were dead, and others resigned, and their finances, as a natural consequence depleted.

St. John's Lodge, No. 284, Brussels: I visited here on March 17th at a regular meeting with a very good attendance. The first degree was exemplified by W. Bro. Wilton and officers to my entire satisfaction. This lodge is making steady progress and doing excellent work. The lodgeroom is comfortable and neatly furnished. At present however there is not that harmony which should characterize a masonic assembly. A little care may restore matters to their former fraternal status.

Old Light Lodge, No. 184, Lucknow: I visited Old Light, my own lodge, on March 18th, 1897. The attendance was very large, including a number of visiting brethren from Wingham and Tiverton. My reception was far beyond my most sanguine expectations. The second degree was conferred by W. Bro. Bryan and officers satisfactorily. W. Bro. Golley, W. M., of Wingham Lodge, Wingham, being present. Old Light Lodge is prosperous. After the labors of the evening being ended, the brethren repaired to the McGarry House, where a sumptuous repast was provided.

In conclusion I have to thank my predecessors, the Past District Deputies and all officers and members in No. 5 District for the very cordial and fraternal receptions accorded to me during my official visits.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

JNO. S. TENNANT, D. D. G. M.,
North Huron District, No. 5.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in North Huron District, No. 5, from June 24th, 1886, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodges.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Mem-ber-ship.		Degree's conf'r'd		Affiliations.	Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet-ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief.	No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all Arrears.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can. W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
			Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	E. A.	F. C.	M. M.					Regular.	Emergent.	Total.									
93	North'n Lt	Kincardine.....	94	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	13	2	15	29	150	95	7	\$136 00	June, '97..	\$400 00	Good.	Yes	\$3000 00
131	St. Lawr'ce	Southampton..	39	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	9	6	15	12	75	11	70 00	Dec., '96....	Good.	Fair.	Yes	1500 00
162	Forest.....	Wroxeter.....	43	5	3	3	3	3	3	2	...	...	14	2	16	18	10	5	17 00	June, '97....	95 00	Good.	Yes	700 00
184	Old Light.	Lueknow.....	44	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	13	1	14	15	24	8	14	60 00	Dec., '96....	Fair.	Good.	Yes	400 00
197	Saugeon...	Walkerton....	75	...	...	5	6	5	1	3	2	1	14	14	24	...	...	4	12 00	June, '96....	Good.	Fair.	Yes	750 00
225	Bernard...	Listowel.....	37	1	10	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	11	6	13	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
235	Aldworth.	Paisley.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
276	Teeswater.	Teeswater.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
284	St. John's.	Brussels.....	52	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2	15	20	5	00	2	40 00	June, '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	250 00
286	Wingham.	Wingham.....	50	3	1	3	3	2	1	...	...	1	12	12	17	...	...	8	41 50	Dec., '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	150 00
331	Fordwich.	Fordwich.....	24	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	11	1	12	12	20	25	...	Dec., '96....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	600 00
341	Bruce.....	Tiverton.....	44	2	7	1	1	1	1	2	5	...	14	1	15	12	...	...	...	Dec., '96....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	...
362	Maple Leaf	Tara.....	41	...	3	3	3	3	...	3	...	...	14	1	16	16	25	00	45 50	Dec., '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	...
393	Forest.....	Chesley.....	23	2	2	2	2	1	...	4	...	...	11	4	15	15	...	8	23 00	Dec., '96....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	...
396	Cedar.....	Wiarton.....	52	...	1	3	3	3	...	3	2	...	12	12	20	20	15	00	42 00	Dec., '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	150 00
429	Port Elgin.	Port Elgin....	31	2	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	15	1	16	18	5	00	25 00	June, '97....	Good.	Good.	Yes	None.
431	Moravian.	Eden Grove...	32	11	...	7	7	7	5	1	...	...	13	2	15	14	...	...	...	Dec., '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	250 00
432	Hanover...	Hanover.....	14	2	...	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	10	5	15	8	...	1	18 75	Dec., '96....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	None
436	Burns.....	Hepworth.....	23	4	...	3	3	3	1	...	...	...	12	2	14	12	...	...	...	Dec., '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00

WILSON DISTRICT NO. 6.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I beg leave to submit the annexed report in reference to the condition of the Craft in the Sixth Masonic District.

The brethren of this district having elected me to the honorable position of D. D. G. M., at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge, held in the City of Belleville, I wish here to express to them my thanks for the honor conferred upon me and also for the many acts of kindness extended to me by the officers and members of all the lodges in the district on the occasion of my official visits.

This district contains twenty-one lodges and I have officially visited all the lodges once and five of them twice during the Masonic year. These visits were all made on the regular nights of meeting and in nearly every case were well attended.

I am pleased to be able to report that the condition of Masonry in this district is prosperous and harmony prevails throughout the entire district.

The following is an account of official visits :

My first official visit was made to Frederick Lodge, No. 217, Delhi, on Monday, Oct. 19th, 1896. Not having any work on hand, the lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees in a very creditable manner. On this occasion I was accompanied by Right W. Bro. W. McDonald, of Tilsonburg. Refreshments were served in the lodge room, where a pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent. I consider W. Bro. Cryslar of this lodge a model Secretary.

I visited Oriental Lodge, No. 181, Port Burwell, on Tuesday, Oct. 20th, 1896. There being no regular work, the lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees in a manner which reflected credit upon the Worshipful Master and his subordinate officers.

Wilson Lodge, No. 113, Waterford : I visited this lodge on Oct. 21st, 1896. There being no regular work on hand, the lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees in a manner which reflected very great credit on the skill and ability of the Worshipful Master and his officers. Refreshments were served

in the lodge room, where the brethren of the mystic tie spent a pleasant and enjoyable evening. This lodge is in every sense in a flourishing condition and I consider their lodge room one of the best in the district.

Erie Lodge, No. 149, Port Dover : I visited this lodge Nov. 16th, 1896. The brethren have a very comfortable lodge room and are financially sound. No work was done, but the lodge was opened and closed in the several degrees in a manner that proved the brethren to be skilled workmen. Refreshments were served on the premises and a social time was spent discussing matters pertaining to the Craft.

Norfolk Lodge, No. 10, Simcoe : Visited this lodge officially November 17th, 1896. There was a good turnout of the brethren and they gave me a hearty welcome. The first and second degrees were exemplified in a very commendable manner. This is an old lodge well sustained, sound financially and shows evidence of prosperity.

King Hiram Lodge, No. 78, Tilsonburg : I visited this lodge November 18th, 1896. I was accompanied by R. W. Bro. George J. Farr, of Woodstock, and W. Bro. James Smily, of Blenheim Lodge, No. 108, Princeton. I was introduced by R. W. Bro. William McDonald. The first degree was exemplified in a manner which I considered almost faultless, which reflects great credit on the Worshipful Master and his officers. The secretary keeps his books in good shape ; the finances are sound, and from the apparent enthusiasm of the members, I consider this lodge, which has a membership of one hundred and fifteen, one of the best in the district. A grand banquet was served at the Royal Hotel, where speeches and song ended a pleasant meeting of the Craft. I shall always remember with pleasure my official visit to King Hiram Lodge, No. 78.

Walsingham Lodge, No. 174, Port Rowan : I paid my official visit to this lodge November 19th, 1896. I saw all the degrees exemplified. The work was well and skilfully done, which reflected great credit on its excellent staff of officers. W. Bro. Ryan is a model secretary and his books are well and neatly kept. The lodge room is commodious and well furnished and is the property of the lodge. The banquet which followed was a splendid one and the whole meeting reflected great credit on the lodge.

Vittoria Lodge, No. 359, Vittoria : I visited this lodge November 20th, 1896, and was introduced by R. W. Bro. Dr. Kennedy. There being no work on hand the lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees in a very creditable manner which reflected creditably upon the Worshipfull Master and his efficient staff of officers. After the lodge closed we spent a

a pleasant evening in the adjoining room where we were royally entertained. I have great pleasure in reporting most favorably on the condition of this lodge.

King Solomon's Lodge, No. 43, Woodstock: I paid my official visit to this lodge on Dec. 1st. There was a very large attendance. R. W. Bros. Malone, Hegler, Hunter, Eden, Griggs and Fraser, together with several Past Masters, adorned the East. The second degree was conferred in an exemplary manner by W. M. Clifford Kemp and his officers. A sumptuous repast was served in an adjoining room after which a return was made to the lodge room, where R. W. Bro. Hegler was asked to preside which he did in his well known able manner. The pleasantest feature of the evening was the presentation to R. W. Bro. G. J. Fraser, of an address and a P. D. D. G. M.'s regalia by Wilson District, over which he has so acceptably ruled during the past year. R. W. Bro. Malone gave a splendid masonic address, and the other R. W. Brethren also added their quota which made this one of the brightest meetings of the year.

Plattsville Lodge, No. 178, Plattsville: I visited this my own lodge officially on Dec. 18th, and installed the officers who are all well up in their work. We had a very pleasant and enjoyable evening both in the lodge and at the banquet held at the Commercial hotel.

Oxford Lodge, No. 76, Woodstock: Visited this lodge officially on Dec. 28th, and installed the officers for the ensuing Masonic year. A very pleasant and profitable evening was spent with this progressive lodge.

Norfolk Lodge, No. 10, Simcoe: I paid a second visit to this lodge on January 12th, and installed the officers, after which an adjournment was made to the Melbourn Hotel, where a grand banquet was held. R. W. Bro. Kennedy and Bro. Wood, of Vittoria, were present.

Oak Branch Lodge, No. 261, Innerkip: I paid my next official visit to this lodge on January 14th and installed the officers. A good many brethren from Woodstock, Plattsville and Princeton were present. An enjoyable banquet was held at the Innerkip Hotel.

Scotland Lodge, No. 193, Scotland: My official visit to this lodge was made on February 15th, when the work in the first and third degrees was exemplified in a very creditable manner. I regret to have to report that this lodge has lost three brethren in one month. Bro. George Brown, M. M., aged 44 years, died on the 1st of January, and W. Bro. William J. Glassford, M. D., a shining light amongst the brethren in this part of the district, died on the 2nd of January, aged 36 years; also R.

W. Bro. Rev. William Hay, Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Canada, who died on January 16th, aged 75 years. He was always looked up to as one who had lived nearest to the highest ideal of a Mason. I regret to say that there is so large an amount of dues in arrears, but they confidently expect to lessen this very much in the near future.

Blenheim Lodge, No. 108, Princeton: I visited this lodge officially on Feb. 19th. There being no work on, the lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees in a very creditable manner. The way in which the books are kept reflect credit on the Secretary, Bro. J. E. Richardson. R. W. Bro. W. H. Hunter and several brethren from Woodstock, Burford and other lodges were present and assisted in the entertainment and instruction of the brethren in the lodge room and at the banquet which followed.

King Hiram Lodge, No. 37, and St. John's Lodge, No. 68 Ingersoll: I paid my official visit to these lodges at a joint meeting held on Feb. 26th. The first and second degrees were conferred in a very creditable manner and the books of of both lodges are well kept. A grand banquet was held at the McMurray house, where a very pleasant time was spent. I have to thank R. W. Bro. J. G. Fraser and a large number of visiting bretheren for their attendance.

Burford Lodge, No. 106, Burford: I visited this lodge officially on April 14th. Considering the bad condition of the roads there was a good attendance. Two candidates were expected but they did not turn out. The work of opening and closing in the three degrees was done in the very best manner. This lodge has an excellent staff of officers, a very efficient Secretary and is in every respect in a prosperous condition. A sumptuous banquet was served at the Barnew House, where the usual toasts were duly honored. I was pleased to again meet R. W. Bro. W. F. Miles, to whom in a great measure is due the prosperity of this lodge and who for a quarter of a century has been a regular attendant, and who still sets the same good example.

St. John's Lodge, No. 82, Paris: I paid my official visit to this lodge on June 8th and found everything in a very prosperous condition. The work in the first and third degrees was exemplified by the W. M. and officers of the lodge in a very creditable manner.

Thistle Lodge, No. 250, Embro: I visited this lodge officially on June 10th. W. Bro. Thos. Peat, of Oak Branch, and several brethren from Woodstock accompanied me. I regret to say the lodge is not very prosperous at present, but expect improvement. I sincerely wish it prosperity. I along with

the other visiting brethren were cordially received and after the lodge was closed a very pleasant time was spent at a banquet held at the hotel.

My sincere thanks are due to W. Bro. W. M. Veitch, of Plattsville Lodge, No. 178, for his efficient services as district secretary during the past year

In conclusion I desire to thank the brethren of Wilson District, No. 6, for their great kindness and assistance, and I sincerely hope that my successor may enjoy the office of D. D. G. M. as much as I have done.

At my request R. W. Bro. Fraser inspected St. John's Lodge, No. 104, Norwich, on March the 19th, 1897. He reported that the books are neatly and correctly kept ; that the second degree was exemplified in a fairly correct manner, and that the lodge generally speaking, was in a prosperous condition.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

THOMAS ALLSHIRE, D. D. G. M.,
Wilson District, No. 6.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & M. A. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Wilson District, No. 6, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Mem- bership.			Degre's conf'			Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet- ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief.	No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total or all Arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
			Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	E. A.	F. C.	M. M.						Regular.	Emergent.	Total.									
10	Norfolk.....	Simcoe.....	84	1	11	6	8	6	2	6	1	1	1	11	11	30	148	50	8	\$50 00	June 24 '97	Good.	Excellent.	Yes	\$600 00
37	King Hlr'm	Ingersoll.....	60	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	7	1	1	11	2	16	131	.....	20	121 25	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Good.	Yes	300 00
43	King Sol'n.	Woodstock.....	97	9	8	6	5	5	3	3	9	2	1	113	8	21	24	15	00	187 00	June 24, '96	Fair.	Good.	Yes	1121 00
68	St. John's.	Ingersoll.....	64	6	9	13	13	13	1	4	4	1	1	113	6	19	21	20	00	83 00	July 5, '97...	Good.	Good.	Yes	Fully.
76	Oxford.....	Woodstock.....	101	4	5	4	4	5	1	4	1	1	1	114	7	21	26	71	55	212 75	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	1150 00
78	King Hlr'm	Tilsonburg.....	117	11	13	13	13	13	1	1	1	1	1	115	2	17	35	40	00	300 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00
82	St. John's.	Paris.....	52	5	2	5	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	113	3	16	25	39	85	385 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
104	St. John's.	Norwich.....	79	3	3	5	4	5	1	1	7	1	1	113	1	15	25	20	00	125 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
106	Burford.....	Burford.....	67	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	113	1	14	25	20	00	100 00	Dec. 18, '96...	Good.	All right.	Yes	1200 00
108	Blenheim.....	Princeton.....	24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	113	1	13	11	.....	1	30 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	100 00
113	Wilson.....	Waterford.....	47	6	3	3	1	3	2	4	3	1	1	113	1	14	22	73	58	71 00	June, 10, '97	Fairly g'd	Improv'g	No.	650 00
149	Erie.....	Port Dover.....	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	113	1	14	20	.....	18	.....	Jan. 27, '97...	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	300 00
174	Walsing'm.	Port Rowan.....	45	4	1	1	2	2	1	4	1	1	1	10	10	10	18	15	50	71 02	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Splendid	Yes	1200 00
178	Plattsville.	Plattsville.....	49	3	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	112	1	13	16	3	00	61 10	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Not good	Yes	400 00
181	Oriental.....	Port Burwell.....	25	4	4	7	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	111	1	12	8	55	00	103 00	June, 16, '97	Good.	Good.	Yes	125 00
193	Scotland.....	Scotland.....	59	8	4	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	1	112	1	13	17	28	.....	3 25	Dec. 27, '96.	High.	Good.	Yes	250 00
217	Frederick.....	Delhi.....	41	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	112	1	13	18	.....	1	148 52	June 24, '96.	Fair.	Good.	Yes	Yes.
237	Vienna.....	Vienna.....	39	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	113	1	10	.....	.....	22	128 17	June, '96...	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	No.
250	Thistle.....	Embro.....	27	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	116	1	7	10	6	00	25 00	June 24, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
261	Oak Br'uch	Inniskip.....	21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	119	1	9	12	7	00	8 10	Dec. 28, '96.	Not bad.	Good.	Yes	400 00
339	Vittoria.....	Vittoria.....	35	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	7	17	7	00	.....	.....	Good.	Fair.	Yes	400 00

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, No. 7.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

In presenting my report of the condition of Masonry in the seventh District, it is with pleasure that I look back upon the occasions which gave opportunity for the report, and the many pleasant acquaintances formed at such times.

It is small wonder that the Masonic fraternity should occupy such a high position in the affection of its members, when we see illustrated the unbounded loyalty of the brethren to those whom they elected to positions of authority. It was with feelings of diffidence that I assume charge of this district : not that I feared that my support would be weak, but that I might prove to be less capable than the brethren expected, and my first message to them was a request to extend to me that charity of thought which is our distinguishing characteristic.

Early in my official career I appointed Wor. Bro. Charles Turnbull, P. M. Alma Lodge, District Secretary, and by sharing the work with him, I found my duties materially lightened ; and for such assistance my thanks are due and are hereby tendered. As the record of my visitations will show, I made an early start on my official duties, my object being to meet the lodges on the occasion of their regular meetings ; and I have been successful in this in every case. In making these visits in this manner, a large mileage record is a necessity ; but, in my opinion, it is much more satisfactory to the lodges than calling special meetings, which are sometimes poorly attended.

I have found the general tone of our work to be what may be considered satisfactory, even from a most critical point of view. In some of the lodges excellence surely prevails, and in few only can apathy be said to have rendered proceedings uninteresting.

The Wor. Masters throughout the district I have found to be well skilled and energetic brethren, whose constant aim and care is the welfare of the lodge and the preservation and rendition of our work in its correct form. This shows careful selection on the part of the brethren. The Wardens in a majority of the lodges are also well skilled, but in a few cases I have noticed a ten-

dency to share a part of the work, such as the lectures, etc., with Past Masters, and there is room for improvement there. I have also noticed that some of the junior officers do not appreciate their positions as they should, for nothing so mars our work as indifference on the part of the floor officers, and with the object of making an improvement in this line I have therefore been careful to direct attention where it was necessary and have no doubt but that good results will obtain in the future. The Secretaries of the district are also capable and painstaking officers in their regular work, but two of these in Ayr and Prince Arthur seem to have entirely overlooked the fact that the D. D. G. M. for the year is a member of their lodge and is entitled to notices of meeting, and this is as much a part of their duty as any other. To such brethren I would also say as kindly as possible : do not forget that as a rule the time of the District Master is fully as valuable as your own and his communications to you are certainly entitled to consideration, outside of the fact that business demands a reply to a business letter. The dues of the members are not well paid up, and I have found that in a majority of cases the largest arrears were owing by brethren well able to pay, but who from carelessness were allowed to fall behind.

My advice all along the line has been that where a brother is in arrears and his circumstances would not admit of his immediate settlement of same, to remit the dues and start him with a clear sheet ; but if he could and would not pay, let the law take its course. Enough has been said and written on this subject to fill a library of no mean proportions, and I can only reiterate the statement that it is the "fly in the ointment" of success in a great many of our lodges. I feel that a few words are due to the band of workers who have preceded the present officers in our lodges, and must say that the hearty support given by the Past Masters in this district is the strongest refutation of the idea that interest dies when the gavel is surrendered, and that this state of affairs may ever continue is our earnest prayer.

In looking over my report thus far it seems that an idea might prevail that affairs were not as bright as first stated, still in a district of twenty-one lodges where so little fault can be found I do not think there is room for doubt, and I know that the brethren will consider and receive my criticisms in the same manner in which they are given, being for the best interests of our time honored institution. Uniformity in our work being so essential, I am always on the outlook for irregularities, but am pleased to say that (thanks to the efforts of previous D. D. G. Masters) such did not prevail to any great extent. The

principle features have been handed down pure and unsullied and only in minor points can any difference be noted. In order to remedy this we therefore called a Lodge of Instruction on May 28th, at Galt, which was largely attended, and which I am sure will be productive of beneficial results.

Contrary to the usual course in such cases I formed a lodge of members of Alma, Galt and New Hope Lodges, and after a few rehearsals we were able to present the work in such a manner as to show just what was authorized by Grand Lodge and in this way give an exemplification of the "correct mode."

To Wor. Bro. Lockhart, of New Hope, who occupied the East, and Wor. Bros. Shaw and Jardine, of same lodge, I am particularly indebted for help on this occasion, and these thanks are also extended to the brethren of Alma and Galt Lodges, whose assistance was so necessary. This instruction was so much appreciated that I only regret that circumstances would not admit of holding a lodge for same purpose in the North ; but this duty I recommend to my successor, and I might also say that Blair Lodge very kindly offered their rooms and assistance for this purpose.

One pleasant feature of my career was that I was not called upon to adjust many grievances between the brethren, only two small matters coming before my notice. One was between members of different lodges, which was adjusted satisfactorily to every person except one of the aggrieved parties, who, not satisfied with a verbal offer of apology, wanted a written document, which I would not authorize or allow. The other matter was a little friction between members of the same lodge, but which has been satisfactorily arranged I am led to believe. While on this subject I might say, that a rule should apply that lodge funds should on no account be loaned to a member of his lodge no matter what the security.

DISPENSATIONS.

In this particular I find that proper knowledge does not prevail, as on several occasions application was made to me for a dispensation which it was not in my province to grant, and where I did have the power the application was often made direct to the Grand Secretary.

EXPENSES.

Under the present order of affairs Wellington District is a model one, each lodge contributing freely and voluntarily towards my expenses ; still I cannot help but think that it would be more in keeping with the dignity of the office if Grand Lodge made a levy of the amount which each subordinate

lodge is to contribute, and then pay the expenses of the D. D. G. M. direct. This, however, is a matter of sentiment only, and would not alter the net result.

GENERAL.

Upon analysis of the statement sent in by the different lodges, I find that there has not been the material progress made in the district which the importance of our institution warrants.

I note that the membership has decreased by thirty members. In seven lodges there has been a gain, and in eleven a loss, while matters remain stationary in three lodges.

The number of members in arrears, viz. : 229, in a total membership of 1,025, with an arrearage of \$1,416.96, will, I trust, be an object lesson to the officers for coming years. In pointing out these matters to my brethren, I act in what I consider the best interests of our fraternity ; and I only hope that future reports will show a marked change for the better. To those lodges who have made progress I extend congratulations, to those who have met with reverses I express sympathy, and to the others a hope that "something will turn up."

DEATHS.

In our district the Grim Reaper has indeed been busy, and has garnered a harvest which leaves a void in our field which can ill be spared.

Grand River Lodge, No. 151, reports the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. Charles Hendry, who was initiated in that lodge on Dec. 17th, 1861, and who continued a member until his death in January 12th, 1897, having been elected an honorary member on Dec. 30th, 1873. He served the district as Deputy Grand Master during the year 1870.

Bro. Wm. Aldrich was killed by an explosion of gas at Berlin in January, 1867.

Speed Lodge, No. 180, report the death of three members, but, unfortunately, gives no particulars.

Irvine Lodge, No. 203, make returns of two deaths, but gives no particulars.

Harris Lodge, No. 218, mourn the loss of Rt. W. Bro. J. C. Fox, a faithful and highly esteemed member of the lodge for twenty years, having filled all the elective offices of the lodge, and zealously discharged the duties of D. D. G. M. for the term commencing July, 1890.

Bro. James K. Decatur became a member of Harris Lodge in 1869 and maintained his connection up to the time of his death, which occurred at Hamilton on 3rd Nov., 1896. He filled the office of Treasurer of the lodge for a number of years.

Bro. George Irwin joined Harris Lodge twenty-five years ago and was many years Secretary, the duties of which office he discharged with efficiency up to the time of his death on Oct. 25th, 1896.

Bro. D. McKenzie was initiated in Harris Lodge in February, 1876. He left this locality twenty years ago, but maintained his connection with the lodge to his death, which occurred suddenly at Evansville, Indiana, on June 17th, 1897.

Bro. Andrew McClellan died Nov. 9th, 1896.

Guelph Lodge, No. 258, grieve for the removal of Very Wor. Bro. J. H. Findlay, who died June 21st, 1897. This worthy Bro. was Manager of the Bank of Montreal in Guelph for twenty-eight years and occupied every position of trust which the city could offer, and his absence will be greatly missed by the brethren, who found in him a warm-hearted friend and fellow citizen.

Bro. C. A. Burdon's death is also reported.

Harriston Lodge, No. 262, report one death, but no particulars.

Wellington Lodge, No. 271, advise death of Bro. B. Franklin, which occurred on July 11th, 1896.

Preston Lodge, No. 297, mourn the loss of Bro. Wm. C. Schleuter, who died August 18th, 1896. Bro. Schleuter was a member of the lodge for twenty-three years and filled the office of Treasurer for twenty years. He was always foremost in the interests of Masonry in the district and was prominent in all movements for the welfare of his village. He truly lived respected and died regretted.

Blair Lodge, No. 314, report the death on Sept. 12th, 1896, of Bro. Walter Miles, who was Junior Deacon of the lodge at the time.

Mercer Lodge, No. 347, will hereafter miss the kindly face and voice of Wor. Bro. J. Beattie, who was one of the Charter members of the lodge, and continued in active membership till his death. Wor. Bro. Beattie was a prominent citizen of Fergus, and held the position of County Clerk for many years.

Such is the record of the death reported; and, while we mourn the absence of familiar faces, in the words of Resignation:

"Let us remember, these severe afflictions
Not from the ground arise,
But oftentimes celestial benedictions
Assume this dark disguise.
We see but dimly through the mists and vapors;
Amid these earthly damps,
What to us may seem sad funereal tapers,
May be Heaven's distant lamp."

VISITATIONS.

Alma Lodge, No. 72, August 25, 1896 : My first official visit was paid to this, my mother lodge, and my feelings upon being introduced to my brethren as the representative of the Grand Master for the district, and being received by them in such capacity, may be better imagined than described ; for as it is such a comparatively short time since I entered the portals of the lodge in a state of darkness, that to be greeted in the hearty and enthusiastic manner which obtained upon this occasion was honor indeed. My visit was made a re-union of the Masonic fraternity from neighboring towns, and the east was filled with Masters and Past Masters of Galt, Preston and other lodges. R. W. Bro. A. Taylor and R. W. Bro. W. D. Hepburn (P. D. D. G. Masters) also honored us by their presence. As the meeting was an "emergency" called for the purpose of giving the D. D. G. M. a good send off, no work was done ; but as I have been a regular attendant at our stated meetings (holding the honorable position of secretary of the lodge), I can testify to the efficiency of our Worshipful Master, J. S. Wardlaw, who, with his Wardens and junior officers, is fully capable of upholding the high standard of lodge work which the brethren demand. A few well timed remarks were made by some of our visitors and the lodge closed, when a pleasant hour was spent in speech, song and story in the banquet room. The statistics of Alma Lodge present a very satisfactory appearance, for although we found it necessary to suspend a number of brethren for non-payment of dues, still the accessions by restorations, joinings and initiations have enabled us to keep our membership list intact in numbers. As usual, harmony reigns supreme, and to call Alma "mater" is indeed an honor.

Scott Lodge, No. 421, September 16th, 1896, was the scene of our next visitation, and, accompanied by W. Bro. C. Turnbull, of Alma Lodge, I drove from Fergus to this interesting little town. The drive was a pleasant one, through a beautiful country, and over roads which might justly be styled perfect ; and our greeting on arrival gave an indication of what we might expect ere our departure. My reception in this lodge was a very enthusiastic one, the brethren having turned out in goodly numbers to do us honor, as out of a total membership of thirty-eight there was an attendance of twenty-one members of the lodge. I found Very Wor. Bro. George H. Cooper in the East, and to those who know him it will be unnecessary to state that his presence is a guarantee of excellence in the rendition of our work. I regret that at first his support was not just what would be expected ; but I am inclined to believe that nervousness was at the bottom of the trouble, for,

as the work proceeded, a marked change for the better became apparent. I also note that the Past Masters of Scott Lodge are very enthusiastic and regular attendants, and Rt. Wor. Bro. Hopkins keeps a watchful eye on the doings of his lodge. Two applications at this meeting for initiation gave evidence that "progress" is the watchword here.

Wellington Lodge, No. 271, October 14th, 1896: Visited this lodge on the above date and found a goodly number of brethren present. Had the pleasure of renewing my acquaintance with Rt. Wor. Bro. Conboy, who still takes an active interest in the work of the lodge. I find a very efficient body of officers in charge here and Wor. Bro. J. W. Leitch is a capable and painstaking Master, whose best efforts are put forth for the welfare of his lodge. The work of the evening was that of the second degree, in which the lodge did themselves proud, and I was pleased to congratulate them upon the manner in which the candidate proved his efficiency in the former degree. The floor work of the S. Deacon was worthy of commendation, and in fact very little fault could be found anywhere. A few points of instruction however were necessary to insure uniformity and the same was very agreeably received by the members.

Wor. Bro. Overland makes an efficient Secretary, and I find the lodge in affluent circumstances, the only difficulty being in the investment of their surplus funds. I counselled a change in this respect, and was given to understand that the same would be effected without delay. Everything considered, the prospects of Wellington Lodge are bright.

Harris Lodge, No. 216, Oct. 20, 1896; I have long looked forward to a visit to this lodge, which, as well as being the largest in numbers, bears a record of being one of the foremost in the district in all matters pertaining to the interests of Masonry. I found the pleasure of my visit somewhat marred by the absence of R. W. Bro. J. C. Fox, who a few days before had been summoned by the Supreme Grand Master to give an account of his stewardship in life, and the brethren therefore mourned the vacancy caused by the sudden transition. I found W. Bro. Fraser in charge of this lodge, ably seconded by an efficient staff of officers, and encouraged by the presence of such veteran Past Masters as R. W. Bro. McLaren, W. Bro. Irvine and W. Bro. J. C. Brown, who very seldom miss the opportunity of meeting with the lodge. A candidate being in readiness for initiation, this ceremony was proceeded with, and carried out in a very fairly satisfactory manner, after which we formed ourselves into an impromptu lodge of instruction, which was highly valued by all, and especially the older members of the lodge. I find that a great measure of the success of Harris

Lodge is due to the efficiency of their secretary, Bro. Irwin, whose sixteen years of experience in this position enables him with accuracy and precision to carry out the orders of the lodge and faithfully perform the duties of his office. I was pleased to see the deep interest taken by several members who have at least reached the allotted span of life. Bro. D. Dick, the veteran tyler of Harris Lodge, is a Mason of fifty-three years standing, and has guarded the entrance to the lodge since its inception. The memory of R. W. Bro. J. C. Fox will always be an incentive to coming officers to perform their tasks with fidelity, and so "lay up for themselves a crown of rejoicing which shall endure when time shall be no more." (Since writing the above I have been informed that Bro. George Irwin, secretary, has been called to his reward: surely Harris Lodge has been sadly stricken.)

Blair Lodge, No. 314, October 23rd, 1896: The name of this lodge has for many years been synonymous with all that is considered excellent in our work and teachings, and I find that the principal duty of a District Deputy Grand Master is now but to repeat what has already been reported from this lodge. I find that the Great Leveller has indeed been busy in this locality and the Wor. Master and Junior Deacon have been called hence. The duties of Master have therefore devolved upon V. Wor. Bro. H. Hyndman, Jr., whose past experience has proved his qualification. The offices of Senior and Junior Warden are filled by brethren who do honor to their position, and the Junior Officers are well skilled from what I could judge and learn. There was no regular work for the evening, but the lodge was opened in the three degrees with an accuracy commensurate with the enviable record of the lodge. The Wor. Master invited a discussion of several points, which received due consideration with a profitable result. Many distinguished brethren are regular attendants. R. Wor. Bro. H. Hyndman, V. Wor. Johnson and V. W. Bro. Clements afford a body guard of which any Master might feel proud. The duties of Secretary are ably administered by V. W. Bro. Clements, whose experience insures correctness. "All's well" here.

Harriston Lodge, No. 262, November 9th, 1896: Visited Harriston on above date and having several hours to spare before evening I called upon the W. M., Wor. Bro J. L. Eady, and accompanied by him went on a tour among the brethren of the town. I had the pleasure of visiting the new lodge rooms, now nearing completion, and which will furnish splendid accommodation for I trust many years to the members of Harriston Lodge. On presenting myself to the lodge in the evening I was received with a hearty welcome and had the

honor of presiding over the meeting during the election of officers for the coming year, and I am led to believe that able men have been selected to carry on the affairs of the lodge, as the brethren demand a high degree of efficiency. A candidate having failed to put in an appearance no regular work was done, but Wor. Bro. Eady opened and closed in the three degrees and gave evidence of good control and knowledge of his requirements. I find that want of practice has made some of the officers a little "rusty," but I am satisfied that a very light polish would show marked efficiency. Hearty interest appears to be taken in the affairs of the lodge by such veteran Past Masters as Wor. Bro. Dowling, Leighton, Smith, Clapp, Cameron and others, and with such support no lodge need fear a decline. Bro. P. Lavin performs the duties of Secretary in an able manner, and, although "the trail of the serpent," viz., unpaid dues is apparent, a strong effort is being put forth to have these matters arranged. A short time was spent in discussing some matters pertaining to Masonic usages and customs before the lodge was closed and a very pleasant evening brought to an end. Harriston is "all right"

Prince Arthur Lodge, No. 334, November 17, 1896: On this date I had the pleasure of fraternizing with the officers and members of the above lodge and found them fully in keeping with the brethren throughout the district. The W. M., W. Bro. Rafter, being "a tiller of the soil," and residing some six miles from Arthur, must be commended upon the efficiency displayed by the lodge, for his attendance at rehearsals must necessarily be restricted, and the working of any lodge is only made perfect by close attention and frequent practice. Considerable discussion ensued concerning proposed amendments to the by-laws of the lodge, but an expected candidate for initiation not putting in an appearance I had no opportunity of judging of the degree work exemplified here. I am satisfied, however, that W. Bro. Rafter, together with his officers, can give an expressive rendition of the work. I find the financial affairs of the lodge in good shape. A liability which has existed for some time is being steadily reduced, and I hope to soon hear of its having been entirely wiped out. The dues are well paid up, only a small number being in arrears, and a strong effort is being made to clear up the deficiency. A number of minor points being brought up for discussion, were disposed of to the satisfaction of all, and with a combined and harmonious effort on the part of the members, a season of prosperity may be looked forward to in Prince Arthur.

St. Alban's Lodge, No. 200: Nov. 20th, 1896, will long be remembered by me as an occasion upon which I met with a

warm-hearted body of brethren whose efforts in past years have been crowned with success, and who are now in a position to enjoy rest in one of the most beautiful Masonic rooms in the district. The happy position enjoyed by St. Alban's Lodge may in a great measure be ascribed to the indefatigable exertions of our Wor. Bro. R. O. Kilgour, the esteemed Secretary, whose efforts are fully appreciated by the officers and members of the lodge, who are well aware of the fact that they possess in the brother referred to a "gem of purest ray serene." The exemplification of the first degree gave Wor. Bro. J. S. Ireland and his officers an opportunity of showing their ability in this direction, and the general tone of the work was of high order, no part of the ceremony being omitted. The attention of the lodge was directed to a few diversions from the prescribed mode of working, and I know that the new order of affairs will prevail henceforward. The Past Masters of the lodge are active in their attentions and are consequently a great source of assistance to the Master. The financial standing of the lodge is high, for although a small liability has been incurred, the assets show a very favorable balance. The question of dues may be safely left in the hands of the Secretary. The hospitality and good fellowship of the brethren are of the gilt-edge variety and the members are proud of their lodge, while St. Alban's may well be proud of her members.

Speed Lodge, No. 180, December 1, 1896: This lodge, rating in age one of the oldest in the district, may well be proud of its preservation, for no sign of decay exists and its old age is indeed honorable. A visitor to Speed lodge would be surprised beyond measure to miss the presence of R. W. Bro. Scoon, who has never failed attending a meeting of his lodge unless compelled by serious illness, and this has only occurred on a few occasions. May he long be spared to occupy his accustomed position. R. W. Bros. Pettiford and Mahoney were also on hand, together with a East full of the Masters and Past Masters of visiting lodges, to assist W. Bro. Rapp in the reception of the District Master. I was pleased to see the harmony which exists between the different lodges of Guelph, and know that it will prove beneficial to the Craft in general. I had the honor of presiding over this lodge at the election of officers for the ensuing year, and know that true and trusty men were selected for the different positions. W. Bro. Rapp had no regular work to exemplify, but from the efficiency shown in opening and closing in the several degrees, I am satisfied that the best of satisfaction would be experienced did opportunity offer, and to make assurance doubly sure R. W. Bro. Scoon, in a stage whisper, announced the that "they can do it all right." Four

applications for initiation received on this occasion show that Speed Lodge is progressing speedily.

Mercer Lodge, No 347 : On December 4th I had the opportunity of paying my official visit to this lodge, and while previously I had some apprehension that my hitherto pleasant experience was to be in a measure marred, the subsequent trend of events proved my forecast erroneous. My fears were excited over a little unpleasantness between a member of this lodge and another lodge in the vicinity, but after hearing both sides of the question, the matter was disposed of in a manner which met with the hearty approval of Mercer and Irvine Lodges. On my arrival I was met by Wor. Bro. Bayne and conducted to the lodge room, where I was greeted by a representative gathering composed of members of Irvine, Prince Arthur and other lodges who had joined Mercer Lodge in doing honor to the representative of the Grand East. Here again I had the honor of presiding at the election of officers, and I am led to believe that a good selection was made, as, with the exception of the Wor. Master (W. Bro. Bayne having already served two terms) the other officers were continued in office. I find Mercer Lodge doing a good work, as on this occasion the sum of \$50.00 was voted to the relief of a distressed brother, and this, in the face of the fact that said brother has been kept in good standing for some time, shows the spirit which animated the brethren. In the lodge work I know that they were not at their best on the occasion of my visit, the absence of the Junior officers detracting from the efficiency of the work, while a lapse of memory on the part of the Junior Warden did not help matters. I counselled attention on the part of officers and members and feel that the same will obtain in the future. Wor. Bro. Philips makes an efficient Secretary. The finances of the lodge are in fair shape and the records well kept, but the great drawback is non-payment of dues. The success of this lodge in the entertainment of visitors is proverbial, and on this occasion they did themselves proud. I will long entertain pleasant recollections of my visit to Mercer Lodge.

Grand River Lodge, No. 151 : Visited here December 8th, and was greeted by the largest attendance of members it has been my privilege to meet. It was the occasion of election of officers for the ensuing year, and I found a lively interest taken in the matter of choice of officials. I again had the honor of presiding during this portion of the work, and can confidently certify to the worthiness of the different officers selected. W. Bro. Cornell gave a first-class rendition of the ceremony of passing, and the assistance given by his subordinate officers was of

the highest order. I was pleased to see the perfect manner in which the candidates for advancement were prepared, and with such material coming into the lodge, there need be no anxiety concerning the future. I feel that a great measure of the success of this lodge is due to the hearty support and co-operation of the Past Masters; R. W. Bro. Forsyth and a host of past rulers being nightly on hand, prepared to render any assistance required. The newly elected officers are as such as will add to the record of the lodge for good work, and a brilliant career is in store as long as the present status is maintained. The financial affairs of the lodge are in good shape and in the hands of W. Bro. Oelschlager, secretary, will no doubt be kept in that condition. Very little room exists for criticism, as W. Bro. Cornell clearly demonstrated his ability to correct any errors or omissions, and I could only counsel a continuance of the good work.

Durham Lodge, No. 306: I paid my official visit to this lodge on Dec. 15th, 1896, and, as usual, was very kindly welcomed by Wor. Bros. Brown, Kilgour and Russell, who looked after my interests during the afternoon. I regret to say that my visit to the lodge disclosed a painful state of affairs, as, with the exception of the brethren above named, very little was known of Masonic matters. This seems a particularly peculiar order, as the members are of exceptional ability otherwise, and nothing short of downright carelessness and neglect can have so reduced the working. No fault can be found with the Wor. Master, but the Wardens and Junior Officers were decidedly "off color." I called their attention to the existing conditions and had the satisfaction of receiving the assurance that attention would be given in the immediate future, and I therefore commend this lodge to my successor in office as one in need of attention and anxiously look for his report, trusting that my few words of advice will enable Durham Lodge to "see better days."

New Hope Lodge, No. 279: December 16, 1896, may be truly written as a red letter day in the Masonic history of this locality. The reason for this is that upon this date I was accompanied by no less than thirty members of the fraternity from Galt to Hespeler to pay my official visit to New Hope Lodge. On our arrival we were welcomed by W. Bro. Stark and a reception committee, and conducted to the hall. On entering the lodge I was received in a hearty and enthusiastic manner by some seventy brethren, including the veteran D. D. G. M., R. W. Bro. Jardine, also R. W. Bros. Hepburn and Taylor together with Past Masters and Masters of lodges in the vicinity. The work of the evening was the installation of officers for the en-

suing year and I was honored by the request to conduct the ceremony, which I did, ably assisted by W. Bro. Lockhart, Parks, Jardine and other Past Masters of New Hope Lodge. A very pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation of a gold-headed cane to the treasurer, Wor. Bro. A. J. Brewster. The gift was a beautiful one and the recipient was taken by surprise. I find that New Hope Lodge in the past maintained in a leading position in the district, and knowing the ability of W. Bro. Thomas Shaw, the new installed Master, and his officers, I have no fears but that the future will have bright promises fulfilled. A sumptuous spread at the Queen's Hotel gave evidence that hospitality was added to the cardinal virtues of the brethren. A happy time was spent and the visitors left Hespeler firm in the belief that New Hope will do.

Irvine Lodge, No. 203 : My fourth Masonic visit for the week was paid to Irvine Lodge on the 18th December, and was a repetition of what I had met with previously. Owing to the disposition of the brethren in this district to kill the D. D. G. M. with kindness, I, wherever possible, carried a body guard to come between their intentions and myself, and on this occasion Bro. R. McDougall, Jr., acted in that capacity, and I am consequently enabled to report upon the affairs of the lodge. The work of the evening was the third degree, and the exhibition which was given by Wor. Bro. Wissler and his officers was of such a nature that I could only pass upon it as being as nearly perfect as was possible to make it. On going into the matter I find that no Master in the district is better supported by his predecessors than the Wor. Bro. who rules Irvine Lodge, and the assistance rendered by R. Wor. Bros. Smith and McDonald and Wor. Bros. Burns and Clark is of the greatest benefit. The Secretary, Bro. T. Godfrey, takes great pride in the books of the lodge, which are in the best of form and the dues are well paid up. The lodge is in good financial condition and doing a good work in which may they long continue.

Clifford Lodge, No. 315 : December 21st was the date of my visit to this lodge, and when I mention that this is the home of my immediate predecessor in office (R. W. Bro. J. S. Dewar), it will be unnecessary to state that my reception was a warm one. Clifford Lodge is one of the smallest in numbers in the district, and of the total membership only fifteen reside within the district, and of this number only ten are available for regular meetings, the remainder being residents of neighboring villages. I find, however, that in this case numbers alone is not considered as essential, as good work is being done, addition to the membership is steady and regular and the proper

spirit animates the brethren. Wor. Bro. Hazelwood is a well skilled ruler and he is ably assisted by his officers and the Past Masters of the lodge. Wor. Bro. Allen as secretary keeps the books of the lodge in perfect condition and the dues are well paid up. A pleasing feature of the evening was the unveiling of a portrait of P. D. D. G. M. R. Wor. Bro. Dewar. The brother was taken by surprise, but in a few well chosen words thanked the brethren for so honoring him. Under the guiding hand of those in charge of Clifford Lodge I look forward to a continuance of the prosperity which obtains at the present time.

Waverley Lodge, No. 361 : Early in my official career, I was honored by an invitation to be present at the December meeting of Waverley Lodge, and to conduct the ceremony of instalation of officers. I made the engagement and looked forward to this meeting as one which would be worthy of remembrance, and accordingly, on the 28th of the month, I journeyed thither, accompanied by W. Bro. C. Turnbull, district secretary, and my medical adviser, W. Bro. J. S. Wardlaw, both of Alma Lodge, Galt. We were greeted by a large and enthusiastic assembly, the brethren of sister lodges having turned out in goodly numbers to assist Waverley Lodge in our reception. R. W. Bros. Pettiford, Mahoney and Savage were among the distinguished brethren present on the occasion. Before vacating the chair W. Bro. J. A. Ross gave a short synopsis of the work done during the past year, and a statement of the affairs of the lodge was also presented, which showed a very satisfactory condition indeed. The ceremony of installation was then proceeded with, and in this I was ably assisted by R. W. Bro. Pettiford and several Past Masters, including W. Bros. Lockhart and J. Jardine, of Hespeler. The newly installed Master, W. Bro. Fenwick, gives evidence of being a skilled craftsman, and the high state of efficiency hitherto required will no doubt be maintained in the future. A great deal has always been expected of Waverley brethren and in this I was in no way disappointed, and the occasion of my visit will long remain a pleasant memory. The books of the lodge have been in worthy hands and Bro. Rodger is to be congratulated upon the financial standing, which is the result of his work.

Guelph Lodge, No. 258, was the scene of my next visit, which I was able to make on Friday, January 12th, 1897. On my arrival I found that I was not expected, as my advice to them of my intended visit had miscarried. On this occasion I was accompanied by Bro. Thomas Cowan, of Galt Lodge, and we had no reason to regret our visit. I found the East occupied by Wor. Bro. Higham, P. M., the Master, Wor. Bro.

Brill, being absent. The work of the evening was the third degree, and we found a candidate who was well posted in the knowledge which had been imparted in the previous degrees. A goodly array of Past Masters were present, and that indefatigable P. D. D. G. M., R. Wor. Bro. Mahoney, gave valuable assistance in the rendering of the work. The work of the Senior Deacon of this lodge was exceptionally well done and Guelph made a decided acquisition when Bro. J. M. Duff cast in his lot with them. The brethren not being satisfied with the want of preparation made for my reception, I promised to pay another visit, which I accordingly did on May 11th and found the regular officers in their places, candidates being in attendance for the first and second degrees. It has been my privilege to see more of the work in this lodge than any other in the district (except my own), and from the manner shown no fears need be entertained concerning the welfare of Guelph. The work of the Junior Warden and Inner Guard are particularly worthy of mention, and the same care and attention to keep up the work in the future as was given in acquiring will place No. 258 in a foremost position in the district. A very pleasant hour was spent in the refreshment rooms before we dispersed.

My attention was next directed to the smallest lodge in the district, Preston Lodge, No. 297: This lodge, lying practically at the door of our Galt Lodges, is made up of brethren whose faces are familiar, and on the occasion of my visit, January 15th, 1897, it was more like an entrance to my own lodge than an official visit to a neighboring one. On this occasion I was accompanied by Wor. Bro. C. Turnbull and Bro. J. H. McGregor, of Alma Lodge, and while we were greeted by a very small attendance of members of Preston Lodge, still we had an opportunity of renewing our acquaintance with R. Wor. Bro. A. B. Jardine, Wor. Bros. Shaw and Parks and a number of members of New Hope Lodge, Hespeler. I found the affairs of Preston Lodge in good condition, considering the fact that their membership is so small, numbering only twenty-four. The business of the lodge is conducted in a proper manner by Wor. Bro. Rolling, who, with his officers and such strong adherents of the Craft as Wor. Bros. Belt and Fischer and R. Wor. Bro. Hepburn, cannot fail to maintain their present high position. I also visited this lodge on the occasion of the funeral of Bro. Schliter, a brother whose demise was deeply mourned by the craft and the inhabitants of Preston generally. It was likewise my melancholy duty to conduct the funeral ceremonies of our late R. Wor. Bro. J. C. Fox, P. D. D. G. M., who was interred under the auspices of Preston Lodge.

Conestogo Lodge, No. 295 : My last trip to the northern part of our district was on the occasion of my visit to the above lodge, which is located in Drayton, and on the evening of January 19th found me an applicant for admission at the door of this lodge. From the thoroughness of my examination by W. Bros. Flath and Riley I was led to expect a very efficient rendering of our work, but unfortunately the absence of the Worshipful Master made a change in the position of the officers necessary, and so I am unable to report what could be done by the regular staff. I found it necessary, however, to urge upon the officers the necessity of frequent meetings and practice in order to keep up the interest in the work, and also to be more prompt in the dispatch of business. The books of the lodge are now in good condition, the dues being well paid up, the amount of arrears being very small. This fact no doubt being attributable to the unique course pursued some time ago of accepting the sum of one dollar in settlement of dues and making a fresh start, which I trust will result in the desired object being attained.

Ayr Lodge, No. 172 : Regarding this lodge I might say for the information of my successor that in order to obtain any information concerning their affairs it is absolutely necessary to visit them personally. It seems entirely useless to write them making enquiry, as my frequent communications were treated with silent contempt when made to the regular officers, and it was only upon making application to Wor. Bro. Cassie, then out of office, that I could find whether life existed. I was surprised at this dereliction of duty and violation of obligation on the part of the Secretary and the then W. M., as both are officers of experience, and I cannot too strongly condemn this want of attention and disregard to recognized authority. On the occasion of my official visit I was accompanied by Wor. Bro. C. Turnbull, of Alma, and we were welcomed by the members in a hearty manner. Too much praise cannot be given to those brethren who, by their loyalty to the lodge, have prevented "death from neglect"; as in looking over the records I find that practically the same names are on the attendance register each night. Wor. Bro. Cassie is again in the East and gave evidence of his ability in opening and closing in the several degrees. The dues are well paid up and the lodge is in a good position financially, and with an improvement in the points I have mentioned matters might be considered fairly satisfactorily. Individually the members are boon companions and made our visit a pleasant one, and I regret the state of affairs which has made this report such as it is.

Galt Lodge, No. 257 : Tuesday evening, April 6th, was the

occasion of my final visit of inspection, and as I commenced my tour with a visit to my mother lodge, Alma, I reserved the final call for our sister lodge, Galt, No. 257. As may be expected this occasion was made a memorable one by my brethren, as one thing the Masons of Galt can do is to appreciate an honor conferred upon one of their members, and at both of my official visits it would have been impossible to say which lodge had the most representatives present, so closely are the brethren assimilated in their ardor. I regretted to notice the absence of the Master, W. Bro. Cowan, who, by the way, is one of the old pillars of the lodge, and R. W. Bro. Taylor was also conspicuous by his absence on account of illness. W. Bro. Thomas occupied the east and conducted the routine affairs of the lodge in his well known manner, after which he opened and closed in the several degrees with a fair degree of efficiency. Galt Lodge has been enjoying a rest for some time back, after a period of hard work, and we trust that on this account the officers will not permit themselves to become rusty but will maintain their well known proficiency so as to be ready for the harvest when the time comes. The brethren of Alma Lodge have a tender spot in their hearts for Galt, for is she not "bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh," having decided some twenty years ago to set up house for herself, and nobly has she succeeded. Carelessness in payment, or rather non-payment, of dues by the members provides additional work for the secretary, Bro. Murray, who is a very careful and painstaking officer. This is not as it should be, but where is it otherwise? After the close of the lodge a very pleasant time was spent in the banquet room, and it was with a feeling of sadness that I left the company of my brethren on this occasion, knowing that it was the last of my official visits.

CONCLUSION.

My brethren, I have finished my work ; imperfectly, I know, but to the best of my ability. When I look back to the expectations put forward at my nomination, I regret my shortcomings, as I know they are a disappointment to you and a source of regret to myself. Of one thing, however, you may rest assured : the memory of the year when I was in charge of Wellington District will ever be a pleasant one, and the recollection of the many warm hand clasps and kind words of greeting will tend to smooth some of the rough passages in the life which is yet before me. To one who has taken a deep interest in any work, there comes a time of regret ; and that is when the work is completed. Still, this regret is coupled with satisfaction when memory retains such pleasant recollections as I have in store.

To my predecessors in office I wish to express my thanks for making my road easy and burden light ; for, owing to their indefatigable energy, little remained for me to do but recommend a continuance of the good work in hand. To the Grand Secretary and Most Wor. Bro. Murray I am also indebted for valuable assistance in times of need ; but, as there are "no friends like old friends," my brethren of Alma and Galt Lodges have made me their lasting debtor ; and as there will in all probability be no opportunity for me to repay my brethren in kind, I will have to remain in that position. To the brethren throughout the district I have never lost opportunity of extending thanks for the kindness extended to me, and this I repeat here again.

My brethren, the height of my Masonic ambition has been reached, early in life it is true (thanks to your unanimous opinion of me), and as it has been my constant aim to in a measure justify your choice, and feeling at least partially successful, I am satisfied, and bespeak the same measure of kindness and regard for my successor, and hand over to him Wellington District, the home of a fraternity true to themselves, true to mankind and true to Masonry.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

ANDREW J. OLIVER, D. D. G. M.,
Wellington District, No. 7.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Wellington District, No. 7, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Mem- bership.		Degree's conf'd			Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet- ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief	No of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.	
			Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	E. A.	F. C.						M. M.	Regular.	Emergent.										Total.
72	Alma.....	Galt.....	95	1		3	5	2	1	3	2		12	1	13	26	\$45 00	13	\$67 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Bright.	Yes	\$900 00	
151	Grnd Riv'r.....	Berlin.....	89			5	5	4	1	1	2		2	12	2	14	23	47 00		Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	700 00	
172	Ayr.....	Ayr.....	30	1		5	4	2		3	2		10	1	11	8		4	12 00	June 22, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	None.	
180	Speed.....	Guelph.....	79	2		4	2	1		3	2		3	13	2	15	28	29 00	18	162 00	Dec. 29, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	None.
200	St. Albans.....	Mount Forest.....	47			3	3	3		1			14	1	15	15	10	6	35 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00	
203	Irvine.....	Elora.....	44	4		3	2	2		3			2	12	2	14	17	21 75	5	21 40	June 24, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	400 00
216	Harris.....	Orangeville.....	100	4		6	5	4	2	3	5		5	12	4	16	27	106 00	3	10 75	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
257	Galt.....	Galt.....	79	1		2	2	1	1	2			12	1	13	18				June 30, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	900 00	
258	Guelph.....	Guelph.....	83	6		5	3	1	1	1			2	12	2	14	28	40 00	28	172 12	June 16, '96.	Excell't	Excell't	Yes	250 00
262	Harriston.....	Harriston.....	49	2		2	3	3		1			1	13	1	14	15		7	30 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Good.	Yes	500 00
271	Wellington.....	Erin.....	42	3		3	3	4					1	12	1	13	17	20 00	11	40 00	Dec. 31, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
279	New Hope.....	Hesperer.....	55			2	1	1		2			1	12	1	13	17		8	81 24	June 22, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	200 00
295	Conestoga.....	Dryton.....	26	6		1	1	2			8		1	9	2	12	10			34 75	Dec. 27, '96.	No funds	Moderate	Yes	400 00
297	Preston.....	Preston.....	25	1									1	10	2	12	8	2 50	2	30 25	June 26, '97.	Fair.	Slow.	Yes	None.
306	Durham.....	Durham.....	36			1							14	1	15	10		15	107 50	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	500 00	
314	Blair.....	Palmerston.....	50	1		2	2	2	1	1			11	2	13	10	5 00	6	28 25	June 24, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	None.	
315	Clifford.....	Clifford.....	28			2	2	2		8	7		11	1	12	10		17	76 00	No return.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	300 00	
334	Prin'g Art'r.....	Arthur.....	27	12		2	2	2	1				1	6	1	7	12	65 00	30	225 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Bright.	Yes	200 00
347	Mercer.....	Fergus.....	42	1		1	1	1		3	15		1	3	14	20	44 00	42	192 20	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Bright.	Yes	500 00	
361	Waverly.....	Guelph.....	88	5		4	5	5	1				13		13	13	30 75	6	47 50	Dec. 28, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00	
421	Scott.....	Grand Valley.....	41	1		4	4	5		3			13		13	13	30 75	6	47 50	Dec. 28, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00	

HAMILTON DISTRICT, No. 8.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I have the honor to submit for your consideration my report on the condition of Masonry in the Hamilton District during the past year.

My first duty was to appoint as District Secretary W. Bro. Thos. Clappison, P. M. of The Barton Lodge, Hamilton, whose prompt and efficient services have been a wonderful assistance to me in my work. I have paid twenty-seven visits to the twenty-one lodges in my district and in each instance have met cordial sympathy and a hearty welcome from my brethren.

CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

Although I have notified all the lodges to return their reports promptly, I have to base my returns on seventeen communications, which are now to hand, and from these I find a net increase of fifty-three members, a general revival of interest in Craft Masonry throughout the district, most careful attention on the part of the Secretaries of the different lodges, dues being better collected than in the past and a stricter adherence to the ritual as prescribed by Grand Lodge. For financial carefulness I must award the palm of excellence to W. Bro. Latshaw, Valley Lodge, Dundas.

HARMONY.

Perfect harmony prevails throughout the district, but I am especially anxious to draw the attention of brethren to the generous conduct of the members of Dufferin Lodge, No. 291, West Flamboro', whose boundary was markedly encroached on in its best district by the removal of Waterdown Lodge, No. 357, to Milgrove. After a first natural expression of dissent the West Flamboro' brethren magnanimously yielded to the re-arrangement, which promised to better a weaker sister lodge.

DISPENSATION.

I have granted one dispensation for the purpose of attending Divine Worship to Seymour Lodge, No. 272, Ancaster, on Aug. 23d, 1896.

THE DEPARTED.

I will here append the names of our departed brethren, as reported to me : Bro. E. J. Sanford, Strict Observance ; V. W. Bro. D. Aitchison and Bros. J. Morris, G. R. Vanorder, D. W. Moar, and W. M. McGargow, of St. John's ; Bros. Valmer Merritt and Thos. Wilson, of Harmony ; Bros. L. E. Hatzfeldt, Thos. Wilkinson, A. C. Combs and Jas. Webster, Acacia ; W. Bro. W. D. Jones and Bros. Wm. Roope, Wm. Weekes, George Haslem, John Campbell, and George Roswell, of Doric, No. 121 ; Bro. D. W. Campbell, St. Clair Lodge ; Bro. Dr. Roseburg, Temple Lodge.

“ Life is soon ending,
Give now the tending,
Love and befriending,
Doubt not nor wait.
For many a parting
Will owe its smarting
And tears upstarting
To love too late.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In view of the uniform kindness and generous hospitality shown me throughout the district it is difficult to make particular mention when the general interest has been so marked, but I may not neglect to thank my brethren of The Strict Observance, St. John's Acacia, Temple and Doric, of Hamilton, for beautiful and useful mementos of their regard. I also must say that in every instance the usual expenses of the D. D. G. M. have been paid promptly and cheerfully.

Dufferin Lodge, No. 291, West Flamboro', was the lodge which received my first official visit on the 12th Oct., 1896. A large turnout of the brethren of West Flamboro', together with members from Hamilton, Toronto, Dundas, Ancaster and Waterdown Lodges filled the neat lodge room. The first degree was admirably worked by the Master, W. Bro. Adams. The District Secretary reported the affairs of the lodge in good condition and the books carefully handled by the Secretary, Bro. A. Jones.

Wentworth Lodge, No. 166, Stony Creek, turned out thirty-four lodge members and thirty-nine visitors to greet me on Oct. 19th, 1896. W. Bro. Corman and an efficient staff of officers presented the work of the second degree in craftsman-like manner. A pleasant half hour was spent in recalling the Masonic memories of this historic spot. The Secretary's work is efficient and the affairs capably administered. Harmony prevails in every department.

Harmony Lodge, No. 57, Binbrook : My official visit to this

lodge on Oct. 21st, 1896, was a memorable and enjoyable one in every respect. Although the membership of the lodge has been practically at a standstill for some time, yet before the evening closed a new spirit was infused into the brethren present and the lodge was closed with renewed courage. The financial affairs of this lodge are satisfactory.

Seymour Lodge, No. 272, Ancaster : I officially visited this lodge, No. 272, at their regular meeting, on Nov. 18th, 1896. A large deputation from Hamilton helped to make the gathering a most enthusiastic one, and everyone present was delighted with the appearance of the new regalia, worn on that evening for the first time. This lodge is very prosperous under the mastership of V. W. Bro. J. Stewart. The secretary, Bro. Dr. Farmer, presented a very satisfactory set of books for examination, and the lodge is to be congratulated on its very healthy condition.

Burlington Lodge, No. 165, Burlington, summoned an emergency meeting for my official visit on Nov. 19th, 1896. It was with much pleasure that I exchanged Masonic greetings with the W. Bro. W. Kerns and other visitors from neighboring lodges, which gave us a total attendance of 46. During the year twelve regular and two emergent meetings have been held, showing a record of nine initiations, eight passings and five raisings. The business of the lodge is carefully handled, there being \$200 of insurance on the furniture, all accounts paid to date, and a cash balance on hand of \$100. W. Bro. W. W. Greenhill kindly assisted me by acting as District Secretary.

Temple Lodge, No. 324, Hamilton, received me December 9th, 1896, which was also the occasion of the annual election of officers. Many distinguished brethren were present and noted with satisfaction the officers elect were worthy followers of their talented predecessors. The financial condition of this lodge is sound. At the after gathering fraternal feeling ran high and many expressions of regard were tendered to the retiring Master, W. Bro. C. W. Tinling, as also to the W. M. elect, A. M. Cunningham.

Acacia Lodge, No. 61, Hamilton, held their annual election of officers on Dec. 12th, 1896, on which occasion I was requested to pay my official visit. Here again the confidence of the Hamilton lodges in their junior officers was shown by the unanimity of their election to a higher office. At this meeting a large number of distinguished visitors were present, the commodious lodge room being crowded to receive them. W. Bro. W. H. Elliott presided at the banquet in his usual genial manner.

St. John's Lodge, No. 40, Hamilton : At their regular meeting, on Dec. 17th, 1896, which was also the occasion of their annual election, I visited this lodge officially. I was met by an attendance unparalleled in the history of St. John's, there being about 400 brethren present. The cause of this vast assemblage was to do honor to M. W. Bro. W. Gibson, Grand Master, who, attended by a large number of distinguished brethren, was present on that occasion. After a successful meeting, at which the affairs of the lodge were entrusted to a new and reliable staff of officers, the brethren concluded the evening at the hospitable tables of St. John's.

The Strict Observance Lodge, No. 27, Hamilton, was visited Dec. 18th, 1896. The brilliant work of this lodge is too well known to need comment, and it is safe to say that this reputation will not suffer damage at the hands of the incoming officers who were elected on that date. I found their record for faithfulness, capability and efficient work enhanced by the result of their year's efforts. This lodge is very strong in all Masonic characteristics.

Waterdown Lodge, No. 357, Milgrove : This lodge has of late required persistent nursing, and change of locality being considered necessary for its health, at the unanimous wish of the brethren it was moved from Waterdown, its birthplace, to the neighboring village, Milgrove. I paid my official visit on Jan. 12th, 1897, on which occasion I had the honor of assisting M. W. Bro. W. Gibson, Grand Master ; R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary ; P. D. D. G. M.'s J. Malloy, R. L. Gunn, T. McCallum, J. Hoodless and other faithful brethren in dedicating the new lodge room. We noticed with regret the absence of W. Bro. Dr. Anderson, who, through the pressing emergency of his private avocations, was compelled to be at a distance. I again visited Waterdown Lodge on Feb. 16th, 1897, accompanied by R. W. Bros. R. L. Gunn, J. Malloy, G. Holden, Wor. Bro. K. Bethune and W. Bro. W. Greenhill to assist at the election and installation of new officers, there having been no election for two years. After several ballots had been taken an efficient staff of officers were elected and installed and the lodge started in its new quarters on what promises to be a successful and prosperous Masonic year.

Valley Lodge, No. 100, Dundas, received my official visit on Feb. 15th, 1897. The work of the first degree was carefully performed by W. Bro. Coll and his efficient officers. According to annual custom, many brethren from Hamilton, Ancaster and West Flamboro' met with their brethren of Valley Lodge on this occasion, which was a source of profit in the lodge room and pleasure at the subsequent festivities. Good Ma-

sonic work and whole-hearted fraternity are now, as they ever were, the distinguishing characteristics of the Valley Lodge brethren.

St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 62, Caledonia, was visited on Feb. 17th, 1897. This grand old lodge, in spite of local difficulties, is now, as ever, a garden of true Masonic growth, which under the fostering care of V. W. Bro. J. Old, Jr., and his faithful associates, is sure of a bountiful harvest. The second degree was exemplified. The secretary's books show careful work and the dues are properly collected. A very pleasant social hour brought a profitable evening to a happy close.

Oakville Lodge, No. 400, Oakville, received the D. D. G. M. at their regular meeting, Mar. 16th, 1897. The attendance was limited, owing to the impassable condition of the roads; but the members present made up for the deficiency in numbers by their enthusiasm. The first degree was conferred in a workmanlike manner. The officers of the lodge in every instance are faithful and zealous Masons. Many pleasant friendships were renewed at the social board, over which W. Bro. W. H. Robinson presided. This lodge maintains a quiet but vigorous life.

St. Clair Lodge, No. 135, Milton: I visited this lodge March 18th, 1897. There being no candidates for initiation or advancement, W. Bro. Dr. McCrimmon in the East opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees, in the process of which work the brethren evinced an active desire for knowledge and a lively interest in strict Masonic technicalities. As a result the meeting was unusually profitable and a pleasant hour in the banquet room brought to a close one of the pleasantest of my official visits.

Doric Lodge, No. 121, Brantford, received me officially March 19th, 1897. W. Bro. F. G. Fawkes, effectively assisted by his subordinate officers, admitted a candidate to the light, the full ritual being impressively administered. Many visiting brethren from Hamilton and other sister lodges united with the Doric brethren in making this a most successful meeting. The lodge is financially sound, and the books are well kept, having so passed from the care of our late lamented Bro. W. E. Weekes to the hands of the present efficient Secretary, Bro. W. A. Robinson.

Brant Lodge, No. 45, Brantford, was visited on April 13th, 1897. This lodge has suffered severely in the imperative removal of many of its most active officers, no less than three of whom have been obliged to respond to the call of duty elsewhere during the past Masonic year. These removals include the I. P. M., W. Bro. N. D. Niel, W. Bro. N. D. Curtis, W. M.,

and Bro. F. G. Scace, S. W.; but the work of the lodge, under the skillful guidance of W. Bro. S. F. Passmore, whose efforts are earnestly seconded by other faithful craftsmen, still maintains its reputation for efficiency. A brother fellow craft was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The membership of this lodge is rapidly increasing and good will and harmony prevail.

Credit Lodge, No. 219, Georgetown, was visited on April 26th, 1897. The first degree was conferred by W. Bro. J. G. Harley, which made the sixth initiation for the past year. Besides these, three have joined by card, making the total membership 60, two brethren having demitted and one having obeyed the eternal summons. The finances are in good shape. The lodge carries proper insurance and the books are very neatly kept. W. Bro. J. Shaw, of Walker Lodge, Acton, fulfilled the duties of District Secretary in the absence of W. Bro. T. Clappison.

Walker Lodge, No. 321, Acton, reinforced by a large deputation of brethren from Credit Lodge, Georgetown, welcomed me on my official visit on May 10th, 1897. The work of the E. A. degree was carefully exemplified, W. Bro. W. Stark in the chair. Numerous enquiries from brethren present, on ritualistic subjects, called for animated discussion, which we trust resulted in mutual enlightenment. The lodge records are well and faithfully kept. The fourth degree was duly worked in a conscientious manner.

St. George Lodge, No. 243, St. George, extended me a most fraternal greeting on May 13th, 1897. The duties of the spring season prevented many willing brethren from being present. Though no degree work was done, the work of opening and closing in the three degrees was exemplified in as perfect a manner as I have ever witnessed, and the same praise can be awarded to the officers of this lodge both for their care in administering its affairs and for their methodical system of visiting the sick and relieving their distressed. St. George Lodge is very much alive in effective Masonic work.

The Barton Lodge, No. 6, Hamilton, was visited on the evening of June 14th, 1897, when I was requested to preside during the election of officers. The excellent system pursued in this as well as other Hamilton lodges of electing to subordinate positions such brethren as will maintain with dignity the honor of the higher offices, resulted in the uneventful selection of brethren at whose hands the task of upholding the reputation of the Barton Lodge, as bequeathed to them by their predecessors, will not suffer.

Doric Lodge, No. 382, Hamilton, received me officially

June 21st, 1897, on which occasion we were honored by a visit from M. W. the Grand Master, Wm. Gibson M. P., who presided at the election of officers. The choice of the brethren resulted in placing the interests of the lodge in the hands of careful and efficient brethren, whose duty of maintaining its high reputation will not be a light one. At the ensuing banquet the Grand Master in his remarks on the national relationship of the Masonic fraternity, spoke in an exalted and patriotic strain, that will not soon be forgotten by his brethren.

INSTALLATION.

At the request of the lodges I installed the officers of Strict Observance, St. John's, Acacia and Temple, on St. John the Evangelist Day, being generously assisted by R. W. Bros. J. J. Mason, McCallum, Malloy, Gunn and W. Bros. Birrell, Freed, Greenhill, Walter, Howell, Lyman Lee and A. R. Smith. I also installed the officers of Brant Lodge, Brantford, on the Festival of St. John the Baptist.

IN CONCLUSION.

I shall hand to my successor the sacred trust given me a year ago, feeling sure that the generous support given me will be accorded to him by the craft in the Hamilton District. I cannot conclude without thanking those brethren from Hamilton who by their presence at my official visits to outlying lodges enlivened long and in many instances cold journeys, and also helped to foster a more genial and fraternal spirit amongst the sister lodges. From their marked attention I call to mind the names of R. W. Bros. McCallum, Malloy, Gunn, Reid, Hoodless; and W. Bros. Birrell, Davis, Greenhill, Freed, Walter, Bethune, Niel, Howell, Riddell, Cox and Emory.

“ There are no friends like old friends,
And none so good and true,
We greet them when we meet them
As roses greet the dew.
No other friends are dearer,
Though born of kindred mold,
And while we prize the new ones
We treasure more the old.

There are no friends like old ones,
To help us with the load,
That all must bear who journey
O'er life's uneven road,
And when unconquered sorrows
The weary hours invest,
The kindly words of old friends
Are always found the best.

There are no friends like old friends,
To calm our frequent fears,
When shadows fall and deepen,
Through life's declining years :
And when our faltering footsteps
Approach the Great Divide,
We'll long to meet the old friends
Who wait the other side."

All of which is fraternally submitted.

JAMES G. LIDDELL, D. D. G. M.,
Hamilton District, No. 8.

GEORGIAN DISTRICT NO. 9.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I have the honor to submit my report on the condition of Masonry in Georgian District, No. 9, for the year ending the 24th, of June A. D. 1897. In this I shall not follow the usual form of reports by giving a minute history of who were present, and what was done during my official visit to the respective lodges ; but content myself with noting what I deem worthy of notice and particularizing only where I consider the particulars interesting and instructive.

My first official act was the appointment of V. W. Bro. W. A. Bishop of North Star Lodge, District Secretary, and Bro. the Rev. Jas. Ardell, District Chaplain.

I paid an official visit to each of the lodges in the District beginning with Northern Light Stayner on the 12th, of February, and ending with Lorne Lodge, Shelburne, on the first Friday in April. I postponed my visit to this lodge to enable the brethren to get settled in a temporary masonic home, their lodge room and its equipment having been destroyed by fire during the summer. I am pleased to be able to report that the lodge furniture was well covered by insurance, and that a new and better lodge room is now nearing completion, which when finished will be admirably fitted for the purpose for which it is intended.

I shall depart so far from my intention not to particularize as to note a practice Pythagoras Lodge, Meaford, has followed for some time, and which was adhered to on the occasion of my visit. It has been the habit of the brethren of this lodge to hold "an open meeting" on the night the D. D. G. M. is present. The business of the evening being ended the lodge is closed, when by special invitation the leading ladies and gentlemen of the place join the brethren and together spend a social evening. On this occasion the entire arrangements were most complete. The program consisted of refreshments, music and addresses, all of which were most enjoyable. The banquet was sumptuous, the musical talent of the town was present in full force, and rendered a number of choice selections

with more than ordinary ability, while the addresses on the principles and excellencies of Masonry were eloquent and forcefull. The occasion was fraught with special interest to me as it revived recollections of old associations—Pythagoras being my mother lodge. Such gatherings cannot fail to exercise a beneficial influence and prove conducive to the best interests of a lodge when conducted as this one was. It is because I think such reunions of masons and their friends commendable I cite this example.

I am pleased to be able to report that not a single instance of grievance or difficulty has arisen among the brethren during the year that in any way demanded interference on my part, which justifies me in saying that harmony characterizes the craft. My duty therefore has been of the pleasantest.

During the year I issued five dispensations—one to attend a funeral, and four to proceed to church, clothed as masons.

The statistical particulars of the respective lodges in the district will be found in the tabulated statement appended hereto.

Three deaths have been reported to me during the year, one of which happened under very sad circumstances. On the 28th of October W. B. Robt Edgar accidentally shot himself while out with a party hare-hunting Bro. Edgar was one of the oldest and most active masons in Owen Sound, and did much to promote the welfare of the craft. Courteous in manner, obliging in his disposition, zealous and well skilled in Masonry, his services, when required, were ever at the command of the brethren. He was buried with masonic honors when the whole community joined with the brethren in paying the last tribute of respect to his memory.

I was obliged to call emergent meetings of more than half the lodges I visited. The readiness with which the brethren acceded to my request to do so deserves and has my warmest appreciation. While this prevented me from seeing as much work done as I otherwise would have witnessed, it gave me an excuse and an opportunity to introduce some work which had I think the merit of novelty under the circumstances. Once introduced it seemed to be so much appreciated by the brethren that I made it a special feature of my visit to all the lodges except one. It was indeed a lodge of instruction in a limited way. The work dealt with was that of a Board of Trial, conducting it in such a way as to afford me a good idea of the ability of the officers to do the work of their respective stations. I caused the lodge to be raised to the M. M. degree. I then directed the master to put himself in the position of a visitor presumably seeking admission to a lodge in which no one

present could vouch for him. Having named a Board of Trial (generally the two wardens), the supposed visitor was examined by them on the floor of the lodge. This afforded me an opportunity of noting the ability of the master to properly impart the secrets. It was also a test of his proficiency in the floor work generally, while the examination gave the Wardens an opportunity of exemplifying their skill. It also enabled me to estimate the care with which the portals of the lodges are guarded against the intruder. Generally speaking, the work was done in a fairly satisfactory manner; still in some cases there were mistakes to be corrected and oversights to be pointed out. The result is I can confidently say there is not at the present time a lodge in the Georgian District which cannot send out a Board possessing a full knowledge of its duty. In most instances I found a majority of the members had but a vague idea of the examination visitors must successfully pass before being admitted to a strange lodge. I believe there is not now a mason in the district who was present in his lodge on the night of my visit who has not a clear conception of the ordeal he must pass through should he present himself for admission at the door of a lodge in which he cannot be vouched for by some one present. I am led to hope that what was heard and witnessed on these occasions will cause many of them to post themselves more fully should they wish to take advantage of one of the important privileges of a mason, namely that of making the acquaintance and associating with those in whom they may confide, when in a strange place.

From the opportunities I thus had of judging I feel warranted in saying that the lodges are well and efficiently officered. It is true some of the rulers in the craft are better qualified than others to do the work effectually; generally speaking the chairs are filled by competent men.

Perhaps the best way to determine whether Masonry is prospering or declining in the district, is to compare its present condition with its past. A brief review of the history of the district will best enable us to arrive at a correct conclusion on this subject. The Georgian District was organized as a separate jurisdiction in 1877, just twenty years ago, prior to which time it formed a part of the Toronto District. In territorial extent it was (when organized) perhaps the largest in Canada, bounded on the south by the southern limit of Simcoe and Grey Counties, on the west by the eastern confines of Manitoba; it extended northward into "the land of the midnight sun". But time works its changes. Two districts lying north of Lake Huron have since been formed out of it, limiting it now to two counties, and consisting of eighteen lodges. As these lodges

were working when the district was called into existence, as they still exist and occupy the same field they always did with slight exceptions in location, we can form a fair estimate of the progress or decline of the craft by a comparison of their strength and conditions as they were and as they are. With a view to this end I shall divide the time into two periods of ten years each and compare the Masonic strength of the district at their beginning and at their close, as far as the published statistics enable me to do so. I can do little more however, than note the strength in numbers at the beginning and the end of each period. The first statistical report we have is for 1880. In that year the eighteen lodges initiated thirty-eight members and had aggregate membership of seven hundred and fifteen. In 1888 the initiations were forty-two and the membership nine hundred and forty-two, an increase of two hundred and twenty-seven in ten years. Last year there were sixty-four initiations, an aggregate membership of nine hundred and eighty-nine, an increase of forty-seven over the previous decade. While the increase of late years has not been as great as we could wish it to be, it is nevertheless gratifying to know that in the matter of numbers Masonry is more than holding its own, and that too in the face of the keen competition that has sprang up in nearly every town and village, in the form of societies of various kinds, most of which hold out certain monetary inducements that Masonry does not offer. But the increase in membership is not the only evidence of prosperity I have to offer. In material prosperity the advancement is more marked. Considerable money has been expended in making our Masonic homes more comfortable and commodious. There are now few lodge rooms in the district not adequately equipped, some of them, indeed, are a credit to the members. Perhaps in no district within this grand jurisdiction, can four better appointed and comfortably furnished lodge rooms be found than those occupied by the brethren of Orillia, Barrie, Collingwood, and Owen Sound. The enterprising brethren of Collingwood own the fine temple in which they hold their meetings. All the other lodge rooms are held under lease. That the marked improvement and the increased comfort and accommodation of our lodge rooms are an evidence of prosperity goes without saying, and the financial condition of the craft is sound. Most of the lodges have a comfortable cash balance at their credit. In view of these facts it affords me pleasure to report that Masonry is prospering in the Georgian District.

In conclusion I desire to bear testimony to the uniform kindness and courtesy with which I have been treated by all

with whom I have held official relations, while acting in the capacity of your local representative. Everywhere throughout the district I met with a true masonic welcome, and I shall not soon forget the enjoyable social evenings spent amongst the brethren during my term of office.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

R. McKNIGHT, D. D. G. M.,
Georgian District, No. 9.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Georgian District, No. 9, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodges.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Mem- bership.		Degree's conf'd		Am- bitions.	Restorations.	Resignations.	S. P. D.	Sus- pensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet- ings held.			Average attendance of members.		Amount paid for relief.		No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all Arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can. W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
			Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year	Decrease during year.	E. A.	M. M.						Regular.	Emergency.	Total.											
304	Minerva.....	Stroud.....	19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	8	10	10	\$10 00	\$5	5	\$21 00	Dec., '96.....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	\$75 00
384	Georgian.....	Penetang.....	23	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	9	2	11	9	9	7 00	12	12	58 58	Dec., '96.....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	300 00
385	Spy.....	Beeton.....	29	4	4	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	11	2	13	13	13	10 00	4	4	79 00	Dec., '96.....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	400 00
377	Lorne.....	Shelburne.....	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	2	12	20	20	5 00	3	3	79 00	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	None.
333	Fr. Arthur.....	Flesherton.....	33	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	11	11	11	2 00	2	2	.....	June, '97.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	200 00
79	Sincoe.....	Brudford.....	28	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	2	9	10	10	4 50	1	1	4 50	Dec., '96.....	Bright.	Bright.	Yes	Not given
96	Corinthian.....	Barrie.....	123	12	7	6	3	4	1	3	2	2	11	1	11	38	40	40 00	1	1	109 00	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	1200 00
137	Pythagoras.....	Meaford.....	43	2	4	6	3	4	1	1	6	15	6	21	12	30	30	53 00	3	3	23 00	Dec., '96.....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	300 00
249	Caledonian.....	Midland.....	55	10	9	9	7	1	1	1	1	1	12	3	15	16	25	00	4	4	190 00	June, '97.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00
234	Beaver.....	Clarksburg.....	50	2	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	12	1	11	12	12	25 00	2	2	50 00	June, '97.....	Good.	Good.	Istd	Not given
285	Seven Star.....	Alliston.....	28	3	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	13	2	15	23	40	00	27	27	300 00	June, '97.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
48	St. George.....	Owen Sound.....	76	3	5	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	13	3	15	13	25	00	20	20	89 33	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
322	North Star.....	Owen Sound.....	80	3	5	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	13	3	15	13	25	00	20	20	97 50	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	1000 00
172	Orillia.....	Orillia.....	105	7	9	7	6	2	4	10	6	12	12	12	13	29	25	43	25	25	34 00	Dec., '95.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	200 00
266	Nor. Light.....	Stayner.....	40	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	12	12	12	12	13	15	10	00	7	7	169 00	June, '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	150 00
236	Manitoba.....	Cookstown.....	23	2	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	9	24	32	30	00	35	35	121 00	June, '96.....	Good.	Bright.	Yes	Fullv.
90	Manitoba.....	Collingwood.....	110	8	4	6	6	6	1	9	2	2	15	9	24	32	55	00	13	13	121 00	June, '96.....	Good.	Bright.	Yes	1250 00
230	Kerr.....	Barrie.....	90	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	1	1	11	1	12	12	55	00	13	13	121 00	June, '96.....	Bright.	Bright.	Yes	1250 00

NIAGARA DISTRICT, No. 10.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I beg to present my report on the condition of masonry in the Niagara District, No. 10, during the past year, and while doing so I desire to take advantage of the present opportunity to thank the brethren of the district for the honor conferred upon me by electing me to the honorable and responsible position of D. D. G. M.

My first official act was to appoint V. W. Bro. L. A. Congdon, District Secretary, and Bro. Maurice Britton D. D., District Chaplain, both of whom are members of Amity Lodge, No. 32, Dunnville.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I have visited all the lodges in the district with the exception of two, and in them all I have been greeted with the most kindly feeling and greatest courtesy. While I can not report that great progress has been made during the year just passed, I can say we have more than held our own, and the zeal of the brethren is as great as ever. Believing uniformity to be an essential requirement in the proper performance of Masonic work, I have given this matter my particular attention when paying my official visits to the lodges. I am glad that I am able to report the work done throughout the district to be such as I felt authorized to accept. It is true there were a few instances in which I was called upon to make adverse criticisms, but these were too rare and not of sufficient importance to be seriously considered. In the esoteric part of the Installation Ceremony I found a great diversity of opinion as to what is the proper or rather established usage, and in nearly every lodge throughout the district I have asked the Past Masters to remain after the lodge was closed and exemplify that particular part of the ceremony, or I have done it for them. It this way I believe I have effected a change in the practices of some of the lodges in this respect, and I trust the same uniformity will be found in this ceremony in the future as is to be found

in the working of the three craft degrees. Perfect harmony, so far as I am able to ascertain, exists throughout the district. I have had no charge made to me against any brother during the year, and all traces of ill-feeling, if any did exist, have been dispelled. In some parts of the district there are frequent fraternal visits paid, while in other parts of it the registers of lodges hardly ever contain the name of a visitor. I have endeavored to stimulate the brethren in this connection, as I am a firm believer in the good results effected by the frequent interchange of visits between lodges. I was delighted to find in every lodge I visited the active interest taken in the affairs of the lodge by those who have "passed the chair." The Past Masters still continue to render valuable aid to the W. Masters, and are pillars of strength to their lodges. While the arrears due by members are larger than they should be, the finances of the several lodges may be said to be in very fair condition. The average attendance of the brethren of the several lodges in the district may be described as fair at least, if indeed, it may not be in reality considered good. There are but two lodges that have no insurance.

NEW REGALIA FOR D. D. G. M.

The lodges throughout the district promptly responded to a call I made upon them for funds with which to purchase a new D. D. G. M. his regalia, the result being a new one commensurate with the dignity of the office. The assessment made upon each lodge was \$2.00 and has been promptly paid with a single exception, in which case I assumed it myself.

HEALING.

I received a dispensation from the M. W. the Grand Master empowering me conditionally to heal one who is said to have been "made" in a subordinate lodge of the so called Grand Lodge of Ontario; but as the condition was not complied with I felt bound to refrain from so doing. I trust my successor may be enabled during the ensuing year to bring about a different result in connection with this matter.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have issued dispensations to the following lodges: St. John's Lodge, Cayuga, No. 35; Ivy Lodge, Beamsville, No. 115; McNab Lodge, Port Colborne, No. 169; Clifton Lodge, Niagara Falls, No. 254; Hiram Lodge, Hagersville, No. 319, all of which were for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

DEATHS.

The following deaths have been reported to me by the Secretaries of the lodges of which the deceased brethren were members :

Bro Andrew J. Christie, Union Lodge, No. 7 ; Bro. John H Hainer, St. George's Lodge, No. 15 ; Bros. John Nichol, James Fawcett, Sam'l Cornick and Geo. Wallace, of Amity Lodge, No 32 ; James Fred'k Coy, Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 103 ; Bros. M. B. Morris and John Shaubel, St. Mark's Lodge No. 105 ; Bro James Carter, Ivy Lodge, No. 115 ; Bro. Alex. Upper, Merritt Lodge, No. 168 ; Bro. C. H. Carter, McNab Lodge, No. 169 ; Bros. H. D. Webster and D. Blount, Clifton Lodge, No. 254 ; Bro. C. F. Sevenpiper, Hiram Lodge, No. 319 ; Bro. Peter Sensebaugh, Dufferin Lodge, No. 338 ; Bro. J. E. Edwards, Palmer Lodge, No. 372.

EXPENSES.

The expenses incurred on my official visits have been met promptly by every lodge in the district.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

Niagara Lodge, No. 2 : Visited this lodge on May 12, it being the occasion of their regular meeting. There being no work the Worshipful Master, in compliance with my request, opened and closed in the different degrees in a satisfactory manner. They have a well furnished lodge-room, finances are in good condition, and although their membership has neither increased or decreased during the past year, I consider the prospects of the lodge good, and there appears to be no reason why its future success should not be assured. I was accompanied on this visit by W. Bro. Connor and Magee, and Bro. Merritt, of St. George's Lodge, St. Catharines, to whom I am indebted for much assistance and many kindnesses. The average attendance of members during the past year has been fifteen, and the meetings have been fairly regularly held. I regret to have to add the arrears due by members to the lodge has more than doubled during the year. Insurance \$600.

Union Lodge, No. 7, Grimsby : Visited this lodge on June 10th, accompanied by Bro. F. Smith of Amity Lodge, Dunnville. The E. A. degree was conferred by the Wor. Master (a son of Rt. Wor. Bro. Forbes) in a very creditable manner. Wor. Bro. Sykes instructed a candidate in the mysteries of the F. C. degree very impressively indeed. The subordinate officers of Union Lodge are principally young Masons, but they supported the Worshipful Master in the degrees conferred in such

a manner as to leave no doubt as to their fidelity and zeal. I have been unable to obtain from the secretary of the lodge the amount of arrears due by its members, but am of the opinion from what I know of the conduct of its affairs it cannot be large. Fourteen meetings have been held, with an average attendance of eighteen members. The finances are reported to me as being in good shape. Prospects good. Insurance none.

St. George's Lodge, No. 15, St. Catharines : Accompanied by V. W. Bro. Congdon, District Secretary, I visited St. George's Lodge on the 11th, of May. Just fifty years ago this year, it was founded, and the minutes of an emergent meeting held on Tuesday evening, May 11th, A. L. 5487, and of a regular meeting held on 22nd June, 1847, which were read by Wor. Bro. Connor, proved to be very interesting. Among the names of those present on these two occasions there is only one to be found who still survives. viz, Bro. R. L. Ranney. It is a pleasure to be able to state, however, that the descendants of those brethren have, in nearly every instance, identified themselves with the craft, and their names still continue to be seen on Masonic registers. The attendance, as was the case of my former visit, was large, many brethren from the sister lodges in the city and surrounding country being present. Wor. Bro. Hetherington, W. M. of the lodge, assisted by Wor. Bros. Connor, Magee and Burch, conferred the F. C. degree on a candidate correctly. The zeal of the brethren seemed genuine, and the efficiency of the officers beyond question, which I think augurs well for its future prosperity and success. The secretary has not advised me of the amount of arrears. Fifteen meetings have been held. Average attendance twenty. Financial standing reported good. Prospects good. Insurance, \$300.

Amity Lodge, No. 32, Dunnville : This being my mother lodge I have regularly attended its meetings. I paid my official visit to it on Dec. 28th, and at the invitation of the W. M. installed the officers. Owing to the interest taken in a municipal contest then going on, the attendance was smaller than usual on such occasions. The reputation of this lodge for being what is generally termed good workers, has been well sustained by its present officers. The W. Master, Wor. Bro. Conolly, has been absent on a visit to England and the continent for the past three months, and during his absence the affairs of the lodge have been very diligently looked after by Bro. Eccles, the Senior Warden. The lodge-room and furniture, though comfortable, are not all that could be desired. The finances are in good condition. Twelve meetings

in all have been held during the year, with an average attendance of fourteen members. The property of the lodge is insured for \$300. Prospects good.

St. John's Lodge, No. 35, Cayuga : On February 18, accompanied by Bro. Frank Smith, of Amity Lodge, Dunnville, I paid my official visit to this lodge. Owing to the almost impassable state of the roads I did not arrive there until too late an hour to ask the brethren to do any work. However, on a former occasion I had an opportunity of seeing the W. M. confer the M. M. degree, and can therefore testify as to his ability and that of his subordinates in this respect. This lodge has an exceptionally fine lodge room, of which its members are justly proud. The building, though not the property of the lodge, was erected by a number of its members in order that a suitable place might be had for the brethren to meet in. The increase of membership during the year has been six new members. The number of meetings held twenty-one ; average attendance, nineteen. The amount of arrears is larger than it should be, but the energetic secretary of the lodge, Bro. C. Gibson, has promised to have it materially reduced during the early months of the coming fall. Finances are in fair shape and the prospects of the lodge good. Insurance, \$400.

Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 103, St. Catharines : Visited this lodge on March 25th, accompanied by Wor. Bro. Conolly, of Dunnville. There was a large attendance of the brethren. Many members from the sister lodges in the city were present, and also Wor. Bros. McClenchy and McGell, and Bro. Andrews, of Thorold. Maple Leaf is numerically the strongest lodge in the district, although Clifton Lodge, No. 254, has but seven members less. Wor. Bro. Merriman was in the East, and extended to me on behalf of the brethren a most cordial reception. The St. Catharines brethren are to be congratulated upon being the possessors of such beautiful and commodious quarters in which to hold their meetings. The promptitude with which they secured and furnished their present temple, after the great loss they suffered by the burning of the old one, is a striking indication of the zeal of the fraternity in this city. Wor. Bro. Merriman, assisted by several of the Past Masters of the lodge, conferred the third degree in a manner that shewed careful preparation. Among the Past Masters who assisted was W. Bro. Marquis, a venerable brother, who is still taking an active interest, as well as an active part, in the affairs of his lodge, though a quarter of a century has rolled by since he "passed the chair." This lodge has held sixteen meetings, and has had an average attendance of thirty members. The amount of arrears has been reduced this year, but

is still too large. Financial standing and prospects good. Insurance, \$350.

St. Marks, No. 105, Niagara Falls South: I visited this lodge on June 8th and was most hospitably received and entertained by the brethren. There was quite a number of visitors present on this occasion, amongst them being Bros. W. J. Graves, of Valley City Lodge, No. 86, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Fraser, of Mountain Lodge, Thorold; Halliday, of St. John's, Hamilton, and Smith of Seymour Lodge, No. 272, Ancaster. Rt. Wor. Bro. Garner, P. D. D. G. M. of the Niagara District was also present. This lodge has lately improved its lodge-room to such an extent that it now compares very favorably with any in the district. There was a good attendance of the brethren and the work of the evening, which consisted of the conferring of the E. A. Degree, was done in a highly satisfactory manner by W. Bro. Robertson, who was ably assisted by Wor Bro. Willcox and a superior staff of officers. The brethren of this lodge are the fortunate possessors of a number of old records, regalia, paraphernalia, etc., which are of great value to the craft, and I cannot refrain from suggesting here, that they be placed in some vault or receptacle where they will be secure from danger in case of fire. I trust this suggestion will not be thought to have emanated from any other cause than a deep interest in the future welfare of the lodge and its possessions. As I am not in possession of full information concerning the work done by this lodge, I can only say its finances are reported to me as being in good condition, its prospects good, although the amount of arrears due by members is still large. Fifteen meetings were held up to the 20th day of May. Average attendance twenty-two members. Insurance, \$500.

Ivy Lodge, No. 115, Beamsville: Visited Ivy Lodge at its regular meeting in February. Wor. Bro. Conolly, of Dunnville, accompanied me. There was a very large attendance of the brethren, about sixty members of the lodge and thirty or forty visitors being present. The W. M. the Grand Master is a member of this lodge and was present on the occasion. Among the other distinguished guests present were P. G. M. H. Murray, Rt. Wor. Bro. J. C. Bartle, R. W. Bros. Benj. Allen and J. J. Mason, Wor. Bros. Freed, Conolly, Milloy and Reid, together with many brethren from Thorold, Grimsby, Smithville and other places. Wor. Bro. Gibson, of Peterboro', was also present. This is a very progressive and successful lodge, a very lively interest being taken in its welfare by the W. M. the Grand Master, to whose fostering care and constant attention much of its progress and success may be attributed. Wor. Bro. Simpson, W. M. of the lodge, is a very capable and efficient of-

ficer. There was no work, but in lieu thereof the M. W. the Grand Master delivered a brief but very instructive address. At the conclusion of his remarks he extended a cordial invitation to all present to accompany him to his own home for an hour while the lodge room was being prepared for the ceremony of the fourth degree. All repaired thither and a most pleasant hour was spent. The building in which Ivy Lodge meets is not only owned by the lodge but was built by one of its members. The lodge room is beautifully furnished and thoroughly equipped for Masonic work. M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson added another kind act to the many others that have preceded it on this occasion by presenting the lodge with a plot in the cemetery for the burial of indigent brethren who have departed this life. The visiting brethren were most royally entertained by the members of Ivy Lodge, who excelled all previous efforts on this occasion. Fifteen meetings have been held with an average attendance of twenty-four members. The amount of arrears due by members is relatively small, financial standing good, prospects very good, and insurance \$1,500.

Merritt Lodge, No. 168, Welland: I visited this lodge officially on April 12th and met with a most cordial reception at the hands of the brethren. The attendance was large, owing to the fact that many of the members of Copestone Lodge, No. 373, of the same place were present. The lodge room is suitably equipped for the proper performance of Masonic work. There being no degrees to be conferred the Worshipful Master opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees correctly. I regretted very much indeed there was no candidate to be instructed in the mysteries of the ancient craft, as the brethren of Welland enjoy, and very deservedly so, a much more than local reputation in the conferring of degrees. There are two lodges in Welland, and it is a pleasure indeed to be able to testify to the harmony and fraternal feeling existing between them. Merritt Lodge held twelve meetings during the year; average attendance is very creditable, twenty members being present at each meeting. Arrearages, \$41; financial standing fair. Prospects good. Insurance, \$400.

McNab Lodge, No. 169, Pt. Colborne: Accompanied by Wor. Bro. Conolly, of Amity Lodge, No. 32, Dunnville, I visited McNab Lodge on January 12th, and assisted by Wor. Bro. Conolly and Wor. Bros. McKay and O'Neil, of McNab Lodge, installed the officers. This lodge has progressed steadily during the last few years, and its progress and prosperity should be materially increased in the years that are to come. During the year just closed a number of the brethren who have not been seen in the lodge-room for a number of

years have again resumed their places there, and harmony reigns supreme. When we remember the fact that many of the members of McNab are mariners, and are absent from home during the summer months, we are surprised to learn that fourteen meetings have been held this year, and nine members have been present, on an average, on each occasion. Though the arrears outstanding are larger than they should be, the financial standing of the lodge is very good. Prospects better than they have been for some years. Insurance, \$400.

Enniskillen Lodge, No. 185: Visited this lodge on February 25th, it being an emergent meeting called at my request. There was work to be done in the second degree, but owing to the absence of the candidate I did not have an opportunity of seeing Wor. Bro. Davis and his officers work the degree. However, they opened and closed in the several degrees very creditably, indeed. Their lodge room is in a building owned by the lodge, and is very neatly furnished. The small encumbrance on the building will soon be removed as the lower part of it, which has hitherto been vacant, is now occupied, a fair rental being received therefor. This lodge has held eleven meetings, with an average attendance of nine during the year. The amount of insurance on the building and contents is \$500. V. W. Bro. Wm. Clark, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, was present and was duly received by the brethren.

Mountain Lodge, No. 221, Thorold: Visited this lodge on January 13th, accompanied by Wor. Bro. Conolly, of Dunnville. The occasion was rendered memorable by the presence of Most Worshipful Bro. Wm. Gibson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Among the other distinguished guests present were Rt. Wor. Bro. Bartle, of Niagara Falls, and Rt. Wor. Bros. Donald Robertson and H. Johnson, of St. Catharines, together with a great number of the Past Masters throughout the district. It was, indeed, a red letter day in the history of Mountain Lodge. The brethren of Thorold, conscious of the honor conferred upon them by the presence of so distinguished a guest as the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, vied with each other in looking after the wants and comforts of their numerous guests, and that they succeeded beyond their most sanguine expectations goes without saying. Most Worshipful Bro. Gibson delivered two very able addresses during the evening, which were listened to by the brethren with much pleasure and profit. The work of the evening consisted in the conferring of the M. M. degree, which was done by the newly elected Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. Hoover, assisted by P. M.'s McGell and McClenchy, fairly well. The harmony of

this lodge, which was disturbed for some time previous to my election to my present position, and for the greater part of this year as well, I am happy to be able to state has been fully restored and peace reigns within her portals. The courteous and efficient Secretary of this lodge, Bro. Wm. T. Fish, will have served his lodge in this responsible office for a quarter of a century before another year will have come and gone. Fifteen meetings have been held. Average attendance twenty-two. Only fourteen members in arrears, but for a sum amounting to \$134. Financial standing good. Prospects of the lodge, fair. Insurance, \$500.

Clifton Lodge, No. 254, Niagara Falls: Visited Clifton Lodge on the 24th day of June, and notwithstanding the intense heat was greeted with a large turnout of the brethren. Rt. Wor. Bro. Bartle was in the East and extended to me a truly masonic welcome. Worshipful Bro. Clappison, of Hamilton, and a number of other visiting brethren were also present. It was the intention of the retiring officers to have conferred the F. C. degree, but at my suggestion the work was dispensed with, and I was assured by Rt. Wor. Bro. Bartle that Wor. Bro. Rothery and his officers were among the most proficient, in this respect, in the district. I regretted very much that I felt it incumbent on me, owing to the intensity of the heat, to forego the pleasure of seeing this lodge work, as its fame in this connection had long before come to my ears. They have a very creditable lodge room, properly furnished and well equipped for masonic purposes. Numerically it is one of the strongest lodges in the district, its increase of membership during the year just closed being nine members. It has met eighteen times during the year and its average attendance has been twenty-five. Its affairs are well conducted, finances in good shape, and prospects good. Insurance, \$700.

Seymour Lodge, No. 277, Port Dalhousie: I visited this lodge on the 18th of March. There was a small number of the brethren present. Worshipful Bro. Walton was in the East and received me in due form. No. work to be done. The W. M. informed me no work has been done for some time. W. M. opened and closed in the several degrees. While prospects of the lodge are reported to me as being "good," I cannot help feeling that they are not as bright as they might be. The jurisdiction of this lodge is not large and the number of lodges adjacent to it render its future prospects, in my opinion, doubtful. They have held ten meetings and have had an average attendance of ten members. Bro. Alph. Kelly, Secretary of the lodge, is a capable and, I believe, a zealous officer, yet the amount of arrearages has reached the sum of \$142.45. This

is a very large amount for a lodge with thirty-four members. Insurance, \$400.

Temple Lodge, No. 296, St. Catharines : Visited this lodge on April 28th and was again greeted with a large attendance of the St. Catharines brethren. The greatest harmony prevails among the Masonic lodges here. The interchange of visits, which are frequent, brings the brethren together and as they know one another better they appreciate each other more. It is most pleasing to be able to report the existence of such fraternal feeling and perfect harmony in their midst. Rt. Wor. Bros. Donald Robertson and Harry Johnson were present, also Wor. Bro. Hoover and Bro. Andrews, of Thorold. Worshipful Bro. Beam, W. M. of the lodge, conferred the M. M. degree upon a candidate in a very impressive manner. The various officers were in their places and ably discharged the duties attached to their several offices. The finances are in good shape. Prospects good, although there is an increase in arrears due the lodge by the brethren. Insurance, \$300.

Hiram Lodge, No. 319, Hagersville : Visited this lodge on April 15th and was greeted with a large attendance of the brethren. The work of the evening consisted in the conferring the M. W. degree, and I was most agreeably surprised at the efficiency displayed by all who participated in it. In fact I have seldom if ever seen it better done. Worshipful Bro. McNichol, W. M. of the lodge, deserves the greatest praise for having brought his lodge up to such a degree of perfection in degree work. He was ably assisted by Past Masters McDouald and McCraig. The brethren of this lodge are to be congratulated on having so efficient a staff of officers, as well as on having so suitable and well equipped a lodge room in which to hold their meetings. They meet frequently, having held eighteen meetings during the year, the attendance averaging twelve members. The total amount of all arrears due by the members is \$83.13, which is undoubtedly large, but the Secretary, who is zealous in the discharge of his duties, has promised me to give this matter his prompt and serious attention. The financial standing of the lodge is fair. Prospects good. Insurance, \$150.

King Solomon Lodge, No. 329, Jarvis : I have been unable to visit this lodge owing to the fact that its regular meetings are held on a day of the week on which it has been utterly impossible for me to pay a visit. I wrote Bro. D. Hill, the courteous Secretary of King Solomon Lodge, on two different occasions with a view to having an emergent meeting called for this purpose, but was unable to arrange it. However, from the statement furnished me showing the work done during the year

I find the number of members has been increased from forty-one to forty-five. The lodge has held fifteen meetings and has had an average attendance at each meeting of fifteen members. The financial standing of the lodge is reported to me as being only fair, but prospects are reported as being very good. Insurance, \$320.

Myrtle Lodge, No. 337, Port Robinson : On March 16th, I paid my official visit to this lodge. There was no work but the W. Master opened and closed in the three degrees correctly. The attendance was not large. They have a bright, neatly furnished lodge room that would be a credit to a much larger place. Nine meetings have been held during the year with an average attendance of ten members. The amount of arrears due by members to the lodge is not very large, but should be smaller than it is. I think this matter is at present receiving the attention of their very capable Secretary, Bro. Sowerby, whose enthusiasm in connection with the royal craft does not diminish with advancing years. I concur most fully in the opinion of my predecessor, R. W. Bro Bartle, that this lodge suffers greatly from scarcity of material. They have no insurance. The prospects of this lodge, notwithstanding the above, are not as bright as they might be.

Dufferin Lodge, No. 338, Wellandport : I paid my official visit to this lodge on May 2nd and was greeted by nearly every member of the lodge. I have always taken a lively interest in Dufferin Lodge, and am pleased to be able to say its future prospects are brighter than they have been for some years. The present officers of the lodge are young men who are enthusiastic masons and devote much time and attention to lodge matters. The lodge has a very efficient secretary in Bro. Goring, who discharges the onerous duties of his office promptly and accurately. There being no work, I had the officers open and close the lodge in the three degrees and was delighted with their proficiency. They meet regularly, having held twelve meetings, ten members being present on an average at each of the meetings. The prospects of the lodge are better than they have been for some years, and its financial standing is reported by the secretary to be good. The arrears due by members amount to \$30. No insurance.

Palmer Lodge, No. 372, Bridgeburg : I visited this lodge on Feb. 23rd, and was agreeably surprised to find among the visitors present a number of brethren from the neighboring jurisdiction on the other side of the river, as well as my old friend Wor. Bro. Schoefield, of Amity Lodge, No. 32, Dunnville. The second degree was conferred by Rt. Wor. Bro. Hurrell, who is W. M. of the lodge, in a very accurate and impressive

manner. This is perhaps the best managed lodge in the district. The amount of arrears due the lodge by the brethren is only \$6 and the amount paid for relief reaches the sum of \$55. Seventeen meetings have been held and the average attendance of members was twenty-one. The finances are in the best possible shape. The prospects for the future are bright. Amount of insurance, \$400.

Copetstone Lodge, No. 373, Welland : Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding concerning my official visit to this lodge I was not present at their regular meeting in May, on which occasion due preparations had been made to receive me. I have since that time had another date arranged for, but was telephoned by Bro. Somerville, Secretary of the lodge, and requested to defer my visit until later. I did so and have been unable to make any further arrangement since. The lodge has held seven meetings this year ; average attendance ten members. Total number of all members thirty-five, twenty-five of whom are in arrears amounting to \$140. In the statement returned to me by the Secretary the financial standing and prospects of the lodge are not shown. No insurance.

In conclusion I desire to convey to the brethren generally my warm appreciation of the many kindnesses extended to me during my tenure of office, and also to R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary, for the promptitude and courtesy with which he has attended to all my communications. My thanks are also due Rt. W. Bro. Tipton for his valuable assistance and advice.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

S. AMSDEN, D. D. G. M.,
Niagara District, No. 10.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Niagara District, No. 10. from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	Degree's conf'r'd			Affiliations.	Restorations.	Suspensions N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet-ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief	No of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
					E. A.	F. C.	M. M.						Regular.	Emergent.	Total.									
Niagara	Niagara	44	2	6	2	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	10	11	15	..	\$7 00	12	\$164 00	Dec. 24, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	\$600 00
Union	Grimsby ..	58	3	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	13	14	18	..	..	..	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00	
St. George.	St. Catharines.	77	1	1	1	3	1	..	6	..	..	1	12	15	20	6	..	..	June 24, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	100 00	
Amity	Dunville ..	69	7	2	1	..	..	..	6	..	..	3	10	2	14	..	35 00	15	84 60	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00
St. John's ..	Cayuga ..	62	6	9	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	13	8	19	..	..	14	116 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	350 00
Maple Leaf ..	St. Catharines.	100	1	4	5	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	11	5	30	..	10 00	26	228 53	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	..
St. Mark's ..	Niag. Falls S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ivy	Beausville ..	70	5	15	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	5	24	..	..	22	79 50	Jan. 97	Good.	Good.	Yes	1500 00
Merritt	Welland ..	61	1	8	1	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	11	1	20	..	..	..	41 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	No.	400 00
McNab	Port Colborne.	56	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	14	9	..	2 00	20	90 00	July, '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00
Enniskill'n ..	York	29	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3	11	9	..	5 00	..	..	Dec. 27, '95.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	500 00
Mountain ..	Thorold ..	62	4	6	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	13	2	23	..	10 00	14	134 00	June 24, '97	Good.	Fair.	Yes	500 00
Niagara Falls.	Niagara Falls.	93	3	3	4	4	..	2	..	..	..	2	15	3	25	..	17 00	11	56 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	700 00
Seymour	Port Dalhousie.	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	10	12	..	24	..	142 45	June 24, '97	Rep good	Good.	Yes	400 00
Temple	St. Catharines.	57	5	2	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	11	2	13	25	..	35 00	12	105 00	Mar. 6, '97..	Fair.	Good.	Yes	300 00
Hiram	Hagersville ..	40	3	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	15	3	15	..	25 00	13	83 13	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	150 00
K. Solomon ..	Jarvis	45	4	1	4	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	13	2	15	..	..	11	75 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	320 00
Myrtle	Pt. Robinson.	26	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	9	..	10	..	..	..	62 96	Dec. 27, '96.	Not good.	Not good.	No.	..
Wellandport.	Wellandport.	18	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	3	12	..	2 00	8	30 00	June 24, '96	Good.	Fair.	Yes	400 00
Palmer	Bridgeburg ..	48	3	3	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	14	3	17	10	55 00	21	6 00	Mar. 6, '97..	Good.	Good.	Yes	..
Copestone..	Welland	35	..	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	6	1	7	10	5 00	21	140 00	May 6, '97 ...	Not bright.	Not bright.	Yes	..

TORONTO DISTRICT, No. 11.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I have the honor to submit my report in connection with the condition and progress of Masonry in the Toronto District, No. 11.

My first care was to select and appoint a District Secretary and a Chaplain. W. Bro. W. George Eakins, P. M. of Ionic Lodge No. 25, kindly undertook the duties of secretary, and W. Bro. the Rev. Joseph Odery of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 16, was good enough to undertake the duties of chaplain. I am deeply indebted to both these brethren for the efficient and painstaking manner in which they discharged their duties. The reputation of W. Bro. Eakins led me to expect good service at his hands, and my expectations were more than fulfilled. I think the Rev. Bro. Oldery is as good a chaplain as this district has ever had ; the talent and oratory of this Bro. in his work at the jubilee meeting in the Horticultural Gardens Pavilion were a surprise and a treat to the Masons of Toronto.

Before entering upon the active duties of my office I issued a circular to the lodges informing them of my appointment, and calling attention to what I considered were the points requiring careful guarding if the honor and reputation of Masonry are to be maintained. I emphasized the necessity for care in the selection of material, the prevention of piques and quarrels, and the cultivation of a strong social and fraternal bond between members of the order. It seems to me if we have good men, perfect harmony, and all are closely in touch, that Masonry must be a power for good. I have pointed out that while charity is and always must be one of the broad principles of Masonry, the order is not organized chiefly or altogether for the dispensing of charity. It is intended to band together in bonds of association and love the best men in the community, so that their character, friendship and close association may be an object lesson of how all men ought to live.

I am glad to be able to say that the Masons of the Eleventh District constitute a body of men who reflect credit on the great institution to which they belong, and are well calculated

by their example to promote good citizenship and good fellowship.

In paying my visits of inspection I have pursued a different course from my predecessors, except in visiting lodges in the country, when from the circumstances it is necessary that the visits of the D. D. G. M. should be announced. I have not made it a rule to give notice of my visit. I have preferred to drop into a lodge unannounced and see its plain everyday work rather than a special dress parade. Thus I have been able, I think, to see the average work of the officers, and that is a better criterion of their efficiency than anything specially prepared and rehearsed.

I am able to report complete harmony throughout the district, the two or three points of friction which were noted by some of my predecessors having vanished. I think my successor will find the very best of feeling and the sky serene throughout the district.

THE WORK.

The work on the whole is good and accurate, the little points of divergence are few and far between, and really the work of the Masters and officers of the lodges in this district is first-class and a credit to Grand Lodge. It may be thought because this district has so many city lodges that it is to them it owes its high average of efficiency, but this is not so, and in simple justice to my brethren outside of Toronto I desire to place on record my opinion that lodge for lodge their work is as correct as that of the city lodges. I do not think that it is wise to lay bare to the public eye the weaknesses or want of efficiency of our Masters and officers, except in special glaring cases where holding up to scorn is apparently the sole cure. I think the lodge room is the place to point out errors, to criticise and to admonish. If those who are careless or ignorant of their duties are sharply taken to task in the presence of their brethren, in my opinion one or two things will happen, either they will improve themselves or they will be relegated to the side benches. The day is past in which incompetent men can foist themselves on a lodge. Ability and energy are requisite to success, and consequently the work as a rule is well and intelligently done and the very few weaknesses found are a matter for congratulation instead of contempt. The attendances at the meetings are on the whole as good as could be expected, though in one or two city lodges it is smaller than it ought to be considering their large membership, their excellent officers and the opportunities for pleasant social intercourse afforded by the lodge meetings. The hospitality of the lodges

in the 11th district is beyond reproach ; everywhere there is good fellowship, good feeling and a capacity to entertain and be entertained that ought to and does breed a comradeship not to be excelled or indeed equalled outside of the mystic tie. To sum up, the brethren of this district are a credit to Masonry, their work good and their hospitality unbounded.

PROGRESS AND STATISTICS.

The progress of the district in numbers is not as large as I would wish to report, but bearing in mind the hard times through which we have been passing, the other organizations catering for members, and the financial benefits they hold out as an inducement to join, one can hardly wonder that those who are able to join only one society do not select Masonry, which, although it is the purest charitable organization of all, makes no promises and frowns down all canvassing for members.

The total membership of the district is.....	3,801
The number of initiations was	249
The number of affiliations	74
The number of restorations.....	15
	<hr/> 338
The number of resignations.....	120
The number of suspensions	88
The number of deaths	46
	<hr/> 254
Net gain.....	84

It will be observed that there have been forty-six deaths in the district during the year, but I regret to say I am not in possession of the names and rank of the departed brethren and therefore am unable to speak to the services of any of them. It would be only proper that each Secretary should report to the D. D. G. M. the name, rank and date of death of the brethren who have entered into rest.

PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION.

This association is calculated to be of great service to the Craft if properly supported. The officers of last year, especially its President, R. W. Bro. F. F. Manly, sacrificed time and energy to make it a success, and he certainly can take credit for having given the Past Masters of Toronto the opportunity of being instructed, amused and entertained in an ideal Masonic manner. The President this year is M. W. Bro John Ross Robertson, who has always made himself felt in whatever position he is placed, and I am certain he will, aided by his

associates, do all that can be done to make the association a power for good in the Toronto lodges.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

I thought it well to keep up the custom of holding each year a Lodge or Lodges of Instruction, and accordingly I arranged for an exemplification of the work of the three degrees by well skilled brethren. Harmony Lodge, the latest born, undertook the first degree in the Toronto Street Hall, Orient Lodge the second degree in its own hall across the Don, and Alpha Lodge the third degree in its own hall in Parkdale. The degrees were accurately worked, and I desire to place on record the personal obligation I am under to these lodges and their officers for their kindness in undertaking at my request the work of instruction. The attendances at the meetings were large and representative, and, better than all, the work was so good that although questions were invited and criticism allowed, no flaws were found in any of the degrees.

During this year two of the oldest lodges have attained their fiftieth birthdays and one its seventy-fifth. King Solomon's and Ionic celebrated their fiftieth birthdays, Wilson its fortieth and St. Andrew's will celebrate its seventy-fifth. It is a noteworthy thing that R. W. Bro. Kivas Tully is a member of the first three lodges and was present at the meetings, ruling and conferring degrees with vim and acceptance. This R. W. Bro. is one of the few trees of the ancient forest of Masonry in Canada. He was Senior Warden of Ionic in 1847, fifty years ago, and he has always been willing and eager to build up, strengthen and improve the craft. He has the love and profound respect of every Mason and to him more than any other man is due the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada. The whole jurisdiction would be moved with gratitude were Grand Lodge to confer the rank of Past Grand Master on one who has so well earned all the honors within the gift of his brethren.

This being the Jubilee year of Her Most Gracious Majesty, it was considered proper to have a religious and patriotic meeting on Sunday, the 20th June, the date of her coronation. Accordingly steps were taken to organize such a meeting. The brethren to the number of about fifteen hundred met under Harmony Lodge's warrant and marched in procession, headed by the band of the Queen's Own, to the pavilion in the Horticultural Gardens, where their families had already assembled. As representative of the Grand Master I was called on to preside and a greater honor could not fall upon me. The District Chaplain, Bro. Rev. Joseph Odery, Bro. the Rev. Dr. Thomas,

M. W. Bro. John Ross Robertson and Bro. the Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education of Ontario, delivered eloquent and patriotic addresses. A collection was taken up to endow a Masonic cot in the Sick Children's Hospital, and the sum of \$826 was received and handed over to the Secretary of that institution.

DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT.

The question of dividing this district has been under consideration for some time, and it is important that a conclusion should be reached as there is unrest and uncertainty at the present time. This district is a very large one, extending from Pickering in the east to Brampton in the west, and north to Cannington in North Ontario. The territory covers Toronto, Ontario, York and Peel counties, and there are forty lodges to be visited and supervised. The labor and loss of time involved, not to speak of the expense, is a very serious matter, and there are few men able to make the sacrifices called for in discharging the duties of D. D. G. M. in such a district as Toronto. I have brought the question of division before the country lodges visited, pressed upon them its consideration, and requested that they instruct their representatives to Grand Lodge as to their wishes, so that the matter may be dealt with at next meeting in some way. Had the committee charged with this matter taken any action I would not have discussed it, but in no lodge could I find that any communication had been received from that committee. I may say that I have paid about eighty visits during my tenure of office. I have visited every lodge except one, and I have managed to visit at their regular meetings. It is a great honor to represent the Grand Master in this district, and I should be sorry to see it divided, but I do think that a final determination should be reached either one way or the other.

I am glad to say that the Toronto lodges have at last determined to seek quarters which will reflect credit on the institution. Before the end of the year 1897 all the lodges meeting in the Toronto Street Hall will have moved to their new lodge room in the Temple Building on Bay Street, and will there have a lodge room and other accommodation which will challenge that of the largest cities on this continent.

St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 16, Toronto: I visited this lodge upon two occasions during my tenure of office, first at the September meeting of 1896, when W. Bro. J. W. Dowd was W. M., when by courtesy of the lodge I healed some members of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario, and had also the pleasure of seeing an initiation and raising. Upon this occasion I had the honor of meeting R. W. Bro. Hungerford, of London, who

was hospitably received by the brethren of St. Andrew's. The strong personal friendship that existed between Bro. Dowd and myself made my visit doubly pleasant. I do not think that any W. M. in Toronto ever endeared himself so much to the craft in the same period of time as did Bro. Dowd. Genial, cultured, eloquent, big—physically and mentally—he was the *beau ideal* of the highest type of Masons. It was with sorrow we saw him called away from this country, where he has left a distinct impress for good on the Masonic body, and made hosts of friends. We hope he may succeed in his new home in Toledo, Ohio, and we congratulate the Ohio brethren on such an accession to their ranks. I visited the lodge again on the 13th April, when W. Bro. Hansforth was W. M. I found the lodge in a high state of efficiency under this modest and unassuming though perfectly skilled Master. There was an initiation on this occasion and the work was faultless, every officer being perfect in his part. I have seen the three degrees worked in St. Andrew's in a manner not to be excelled, and am glad to be able to so report. This ancient lodge will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year, and in its age it is as strong, charitable and hospitable as in its palmiest youth. On the occasion of my second visit it elected M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson an honorary member with full privileges, and thereby honored itself and that worthy brother. The books of the lodge are models. Kept correctly and with great neatness they reflect the greatest credit on the Secretary, W. Bro. Slater. The hospitality of the lodge is so well known that I need say little, except that, like all my predecessors, I was right royally entertained and enjoyed myself to the full.

King Solomon's Lodge, No. 22, Toronto: This lodge is among the very few in Toronto which have passed the half century mark. It has a history of which it may well be proud, which it has taken care to preserve by incorporating it in the Book of By-laws so that its membership may know what their lodge has done for the craft and the good Masons it has brought to light. Such a record cannot fail to inspire its members with love and respect for their lodge and encourage them to assist in perpetuating the noble reputation it enjoys. Being my own lodge in the sense that I am a Past Master of it, it might be considered proper that I should say very little about it, but I do not represent this lodge in my official position. I represent the Grand Master and in that capacity it is my duty to give praise or blame as the circumstances may warrant. It is only fair in the Jubilee year of the lodge to say that it is regarded as the banner lodge of Masonry in Toronto, because it

was the lodge which first took action in establishing the Grand Lodge of Canada. It awakened the craft to a sense of the injustice under which it laboring; it petitioned and agitated and reagitated until its goal, viz., the formation of a Grand Lodge of Masons in Canada was attained. Some lodges are older in years, but none approach it in its sacrifices for Masonry, considering that its officers and members took their Masonic lives into their hands for the cause of union and progress. It has had a continuous unbroken life of over fifty years. It has had its hours of strength and joy, of weakness and sorrow, but it has ever aimed at what was true and honest, and now in the year of Jubilee it is about to enter upon its second half century united and harmonious, financially prosperous and possessing in a large degree the good will and respect of the Masons of Toronto. It has given two Grand Masters to Grand Lodge, both well beloved, both excellent Grand Masters. M. W. Bro. John Ross Robertson has made a reputation for hard work, indomitable energy and lovable charity which will reflect glory upon his mother lodge and honor upon his name so long as Toronto is a city, Masonry endures, and suffering children can be rescued from agony and sorrow. The Hospital for Sick Children will be his monument. I visited the lodge a number of times during the year 1896 while it was under the direction of W. Bro. Lloyd, and since his successor, W. Bro. Davis, has been W. M., I have seen all the degrees worked ably and efficiently and know that excellent work is the rule. I make this statement as a matter of simple justice, because on one occasion when visiting this lodge I felt called upon to make a few remarks which aroused some criticism. The remarks had no reference to the work of the lodge as a whole and were not made on the occasion of an official inspection, but in response to an invitation from the W. M. to say a few words, and were made with a view of stimulating my brethren to be always perfect in their work. I was present at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary or jubilee of the lodge, when there were five hundred Masons present, including the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers innumerable. The occasion was one to call for a demonstration and certainly the large number in attendance, the eloquent lecture delivered by M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, the speeches of the Grand Master and others, the banquet with the accessions of music, song and recitation, and the clock-work manner in which the whole programme was carried out, made the affair most enjoyable and long to be remembered.

Richmond Lodge, No. 23, Richmond Hill: I visited this

lodge on Monday evening, the 15th of February, 1897, at its regular meeting. I had looked forward with a good deal of pleasure to my visit to Richmond Lodge, and I was not disappointed. The electric railway being extended to Richmond Hill I accepted the invitation of Stevenson Lodge to accompany it on a special car, and was thus enabled to get out and back with expedition. There was a large attendance, over eighty Masons being present. J. P. M. Nichols conferred the first degree on a clergyman, which was a pleasant scene, as I am always glad to see ministers of the gospel joining the craft. The W. M. Bro. Savage was suffering from a bad cold. I was much struck with the Senior and Junior Wardens of the lodge, both of them being young, bright and intelligent brethren, well calculated to make this excellent lodge even a greater exponent of good work in the future. The work of all the officers was first-class, nothing could be better. The lodge is prosperous financially, owning its hall building, part of which it rents. All the appointments of the large room are in keeping with the character of the lodge. The books are well and carefully kept. The supper at mine host Elston's was something to be remembered. Songs and speeches and good company make such meetings wind up successfully, and all those were present in a marked degree at the refreshment board of Richmond.

Ionic Lodge, No. 25, Toronto : I visited this lodge four times during the year, first on the occasion of the installation of officers, December 1st, 1896, at which I assisted ; secondly, on the occasion of a visit of the M. W. the Grand Master and the R. W. the Deputy Grand Master. The third visit was on the regular meeting in June, and the fourth the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, the 8th July, 1897. This lodge will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary during this year, and is therefore one of the three oldest lodges in the city. It has a record of which it is justly proud, and its harmony and good works justify all the pride which its members feel. On the occasion of the visit of the Grand Master the lodge was crowded with the best Masons in the city, and they were entirely pleased with the excellent work of initiation done by W. Bro. G. F. Shepley and his officers. The Grand Master was pleased to voice his own and everybody else's sentiments by commending and congratulating the officers for their accurate and careful work. On the occasion of my third visit on the 1st June, 1896, I had again the pleasure of seeing W. Bro. Shepley and his officers initiate a candidate in a manner which simply could not be excelled. The W. M. is so universally loved by all his brethren that his slightest wish is law, and as respect and affection are the controlling elements everything goes pleasantly and with a will.

The senior warden, Bro. E. B. Brown, is a genuine good fellow, and the junior warden, Bro. Harcourt, is as able as he is modest. All the officers, indeed all the members, are men of education and ability, the lodge being pre-eminently the lodge of the professions in Toronto, though having a fair representation of laymen. Nothing is wanting to make this lodge successful, and except that its large membership do not attend its meetings as one would expect, there is nothing calling for criticism. My secretary, W. Bro. W. G. Eakins, is a P. M. of this lodge, and if honest, conscientious work counts for anything that brother deserves all the respect which is felt for him in Ionic Lodge. No better Mason could be wished for or found. The secretary's books are a credit to him and the lodge. No secretary could do his work better than Bro. Sykes, and if the secretary of any lodge desires to see a model of how minutes ought to be kept they should inspect his books. Since writing the above I attended the celebration of the lodge's fiftieth anniversary. R. W. Bro. Francis Richardson, its first W. M., and R. W. Bro. Kivas Tully, its first Senior Warden, were both present. There was a large turn out of the members of the lodge. R. W. Bro. Richardson was given an enthusiastic reception, and shook hands with every member. This brother has reached his eighty-fourth birthday, and, except that his sight is impaired, is still strong and active; his interesting and eloquent remarks were listened to with delight by all present. R. W. Bro. Tully initiated the future candidate with great *eclat*, and afterwards presided over the refreshment board with all the jollity and *abandon* of a good wholesouled Mason. The attendance and refreshments were worthy of the occasion, the only regret was that the W. M., George F. Shepley, Q. C., was absent in England. My secretary was also called away on his business, and his genial presence was lacking.

Vaughan Lodge, No. 54, Maple: I visited this lodge on the evening of Tuesday, the 13th January, 1897, Sharon Lodge having at the request of Vaughan Lodge released me from my engagement to visit it on this date. I was accompanied by my indefatigable secretary, W. Bro. W. G. Eakins, W. Bros. Williams, Prince and Curran, and Bro. Brown of Occident Lodge, Toronto. There was a large attendance of members, and contingents were present from Richmond, Rising Sun, True Blue and other lodges. I was surprised to find such a substantial hall owned by the lodge, which is happily free from debt. The room is well appointed and comfortably furnished in every respect. At this meeting it was hoped to have its first Master present, but illness prevented his coming. This is one of the oldest lodges in the district, having been established in 1854

under warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. I, at the request of the W. M., unveiled a picture of W. Bro. Woods, the founder of the lodge. The history of the lodge was spoken of by W. Bro. Sisley, J. P. M. The career and services of W. Bro. Wood were spoken of by W. Bro. Richardson in a complimentary speech. The chair was then taken by W. Bro. Sisley, and he and his officers worked the third degree in an admirable manner. The officers were all accurate and well skilled, and nothing that could add to the impressiveness of the work was omitted. I then requested the officers of 1897 to assume the chairs and close down the lodge so that I might judge of their proficiency. They closed in the several degrees in such a manner as to establish their efficiency. The working by Bro. Sisley was to carry out a promise he had made and not because the W. M. was unable to do the work, as that officer is abundantly able, and so are his officers, to work all the degrees. The books are well kept by the Secretary, Bro. Keffer, who has since been dangerously ill, but is to the delight of his lodge now recovering. After the lodge closed the visitors were entertained at a supper supplied with all good things. Songs, speeches and stories made the pleasant evening pass all too soon, and it was not until the small hours that the brethren wrenched themselves away, all sorry to part and hoping to meet again. Next morning I called on W. Bro. Wood and found his heart still in Masonry, although he is a very old man and unable to be present at lodge meetings. This good lodge has made over three hundred Masons, a record of which any lodge might well be proud.

Rehoaboam Lodge, No. 65, Toronto: This lodge is one of the old lodges of the city, and being a son of King Solomon Lodge it naturally has a warm place in my heart. I visited this lodge five times. My first visit was on the evening of Thursday, September, 1896, when W. Bro. Unitt was still W. M. The W. M. was away on business, but those old standbys, R. W. Bro. Gibbs, V. W. Bro. Gallow, and W. Bro. Park were present looking after the work. I had the pleasure of seeing an initiation. I again visited the lodge on Thursday, the 5th of November, 1896, Past Masters' night. There were two hundred brethren present, and among them R. W. Bro. Dinnis, my immediate predecessor, R. W. Bro. Manly, R. W. Bro. Tait, and many other prominent Masons. The Past Masters worked the first degree excellently and R. W. Bro. Dinnis was presented with a set of regalia. The lodge has a splendid choir, which added much to the entertainment. I was present again at the installation of officers for 1897 to assist in honoring the lodge and renewing my friendship of many years

standing with its Master-elect, Charley Mortimer. There was a large attendance and the lodge's hospitality was appreciated by hundreds. There were twenty-seven Past Masters at the installation. On the 6th of May I was present at this lodge to do honor to my friend and immediate predecessor, R. W. Bro. Richard Dinnis, who by his kindness and sound common sense had so managed the affairs of the District as to leave peace and harmony for his successor. The R. W. Bro. was presented with a group photograph of the W. M.'s of the city lodges, which was presented to the Hall Trust by the R. W. Bro. as a memento of his term of office. This lodge evidently admires Bro. Dinnis as strongly as the rest of the lodges in the district. I again visited this lodge on the evening of June 3rd. W. Bro. Mortimer was absent attending a convention of electricians. W. Bro. Unitt was in the chair supported by R. W. Bro. Gibb, V. W. Bro. Gallow, W. Bros. Bain, Graham, Armstrong, Park, etc. At the request of the W. M. I initiated a candidate and the W. M. of King Lodge passed three candidates to the second degree. This lodge is in a healthy vigorous state with good officers in all the chairs. Its work is first-class and its hospitality is generous. Its books are accurately and neatly kept and I have not a fault to find. The chaplain of the lodge, Bro. the Rev. A. B. Chambers, is one of the pillars of this lodge, regular in attendance, kind and courteous and always ready to contribute to the instruction and improvement of his brethren. The hospitality of the lodge needs no commendation. Every-one who visits it knows its good social habits.

St. John's Lodge, No. 75, Toronto : I visited this old lodge twice, first on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, Monday 2nd November 1896, when it was visited by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and a number of Grand and P. G. lodge officers. Nearly 300 were present, consisting of the cream of the craft in Toronto. Bro. Jackes, one of its charter members, was present, and that estimable Mason, W. Bro. Steiner, was presented with an address on attaining the 25th anniversary of his Past Mastership. This lodge has had a great career and it is not deteriorating, being still strong and active in work. We sat down to an elaborate banquet after which an excellent programme of speeches and singing was gone through. All the visitors were delighted with their reception and went home satisfied with the courtsey and hospitality they had received. I visited again on the 4th of April to inspect the lodge. I was received in a warm manner by the W. M. and brethren and was completely at home. I was accompanied by the Grand Superintendent of Works, V. W. Bro. John Hall. Two candidates were initiated and I was pleased to find here that

emphasis and intelligence in delivery which makes it pleasant to hear the work. The effect of this work is very much enhanced by the excellent choir possessed by this lodge. Music improves all ceremonies when it is introduced, and the first-class and well trained choir of St. John's make the degrees delightful to hear. St. John's has a capable Secretary. The books are well kept and in every way the work is well performed. The hospitality of the lodge is well known and always enjoyed. Those Masons who desire to spend a pleasant evening in masonic converse cannot find a better place than old St. John's.

Wilson Lodge, No. 86, Toronto: I visited this old lodge three times, the first time in September of 1896, while W. Bro. Duthie was Master. I had the pleasure of seeing the second degree worked by the officers of the lodge in an excellent manner. There was a large attendance and the lodge seemed to be flourishing. A number of P. M.'s were present, amongst whom I noticed V. W. Bro. Oliver, an old and active P. M. taking a live interest in his lodge. I visited the lodge again on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary. On this occasion the lodge was honored by a visit from the M. W. the Grand Master, who was accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, R. W. Bro. Kivas Tully, R. W. Bro. Ben. Allen, R. W. Bro. G. C. Patterson, and a number of other distinguished brethren. The W. M. being ill, W. Bro. Duthie presided. The P. M.'s exemplified the first degree and it is needless to say it was well done. The Grand Master spoke on the subject of the new Masonic Hall and the proposed home for old Masons. There were nearly two hundred present and the utmost harmony and good fellowship prevailed. The well known hospitality of the lodge was taxed by the large attendance, but everybody was pleased with the generous entertainment provided. The W. M. of this lodge has been extremely anxious to promote its growth and general progress, but he has to the regret of all been afflicted with illness which has kept him away from some of the meetings. W. Bro. Davis had the sympathy of all, and I am glad to say, having witnessed his work at the June meeting, 1897, is now in a fair state of health. The lodge does good work, is well officered and its books are correctly and carefully kept.

Markham Union Lodge, No. 87, Markham: I visited this lodge at its regular meeting on the 15th January, 1897. I was most cordially welcomed by W. Bro. Turner and his lodge, the members turning out in large numbers. I met here the W. M. of Richardson Lodge, Bro. Rae, and his Senior Warden, who impressed me very favorably. The lodge is in a

good state of efficiency and prosperous financially. Owing to dearth of good material it has not done much work lately, but judging from the accurate and careful manner in which the opening and closing in the three degrees was done at my request, the officers are equal to any work required in a Masonic lodge. The books were closely examined and I found them well kept. After the lodge was closed I was hospitably entertained and enjoyed a couple of hours of social intercourse with my brethren. I was very kindly entertained by the I. P. M., W. Bro. Dr. Fierheller, who is more than kind to visiting brethren.

Sharon Lodge, No. 97, Sharon : I had arranged to visit this lodge early in the year, but Vaughan Lodge having specially requested my presence on the same day, and having obtained Sharon's consent, I went there. I was not again able to arrange a date to visit the lodge in its own hall, but at my request the W. M., Bro. Boag, and his officers attended at Rising Sun Lodge, Aurora, on Friday, May the 7th, and initiated a candidate so that I might inspect the work. I was much pleased with the character of their work and complimented the Master and his officers. The Secretary's books were also inspected and found to be beautifully kept, Bro. Pearson being a splendid officer, as I have reason to know, having had considerable correspondence with him. The lodge I am informed is doing good work and is prospering.

True Blue Lodge, No. 98, Bolton : I visited this lodge at its regular meeting, Monday, March 12th, 1897. I found it in a healthy and prosperous condition, and keeping strict guard over the door. I had not the pleasure of knowing anyone in the lodge and was under the necessity of proving my right to enter it, working from the E. A. to M. M. degree. Fortunately I was able to satisfy the well skilled Board of Trial that I was a Master Mason and they were good enough to allow the regalia to prove the higher rank. I quite appreciated the care which they exercised in proving me and complimented them upon it. The membership of this lodge is scattered over a wide extent of country, and the roads being in a bad state the attendance was not so large as usual. I had the pleasure of seeing the W. M. and officers work the second and third degrees in a satisfactory manner. I found this lodge has dealt in a peculiar way with the application of a candidate and reported the matter to the Grand Master. The candidate having received the first and second degrees and being an estimable man of good standing, the Grand Master was pleased to overlook the irregularity. The lodge has a very beautiful home, the most artistically decorated room in the Toronto district,

not excepting any City lodge room. The ceiling and walls are the work of an artist, and it was a great treat to any lover of the beautiful to find such a perfect gem of a lodge room in his district. The books are well kept, in fact everything about the lodge betokens a determination to have things done properly and artistically. The brethren were kind enough to entertain me to an excellent spread at the hotel. Everything connected with my visit to this capital lodge was pleasurable in the highest degree.

Tuscan Lodge, No. 99, Newmarket : I visited this lodge on the occasion of the election of officers for the year 1897, December 9th. The election was of a most harmonious character and the new M. W., Bro. Ross, is well calculated to maintain the excellent reputation enjoyed by Tuscan. R. W. Bro. T. T. D. Brunton is a member of this lodge, and those who remember his eagle eye when D. D. G. M. will easily understand the good work of the lodge. I met here W. Bro. Radcliffe and the officers and members of Rising Sun Lodge, Aurora. There being no candidates, I am unable to report from actual observation how the work is carried on, but the manner in which the lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees satisfied me that it is well done. The lodge is, I am glad to say, in a good position financially and the books are well kept. I think this lodge exercises the greatest care in selecting material judging from the members I saw. The brethren are excellent exponents of the work of the fourth degree and made my visit most pleasant and agreeable.

Rising Sun Lodge, No. 129, Aurora : Having heard a good deal about the energy and Masonic zeal of W. Bro. Radcliffe, and having met him in Tuscan Lodge, Newmarket, and Vaughan Lodge, Maple, I expected to find him at the head of a prosperous lodge. I had been requested to invite some of the Toronto brethren to accompany me, which I did, and R. W. Bro. Allen, R. W. Bro. Tait and W. Bro. Eakins, the indefatigable District Secretary, were kind enough to visit with me. I paid my official visit on Friday, May 7th, 1897. When I entered the lodge room I was amazed at my surroundings : a large and beautiful room, well furnished and perfectly equipped in every particular, a profusion of flowers, and best of all, over one hundred good and true Masons ready to receive me. Robertson Lodge with its Master, the Hon E. J. Davis, officers and members ; Sharon Lodge, W. Bro. Boag and his officers and members ; Vaughan Lodge, its W. M. and officers and that excellent Bro its J. P. M., Dr. Sisley ; Richmond Lodge, its W. M. and officers ; and Tuscan Lodge, its W. M., Bro. Ross, officers and members, including R. W. Bro. T. D. D. Brunton, P. D. D. G. M. I do

not think any representative of the Grand Master in the 11th District ever met such a reception outside of Toronto, and the experience was pleasing and inspiring. The W. M. and officers of Rising Sun Lodge worked the first degree without imperfection or flaw, showing that in this work, as in everything else, they were beyond criticism. Sharon Lodge also worked a first degree, which work is referred to in my report on that lodge. I inspected the books and found them correct and well kept. This being the night of election of officers, at the request of the W. M., R. W. Bro. Tait and I acted as scrutineers in what proved to be a very harmonious election. W. Bro. Radcliffe was elected Secretary and consented to serve in that capacity, thus placing his lodge under another debt of gratitude to him. After the lodge was closed the visitors were entertained at a banquet. Over one hundred Masons sat down to a table which could not be excelled for viands and decorations, even in Toronto, certainly I have never seen anything to excel it there. Excellent speeches were made and music and song added to the enjoyment. The opinion of all the visitors was that Rising Sun might be imitated but not surpassed for strength, work and hospitality.

Richardson Lodge, No. 136, Stouffville : I visited this lodge on the 24th June, 1897, and was accompanied by R. W. Bro. Wm. Roaf, who had kindly consented to install the officers, elect for 1897. I had been anxious to visit this lodge before my term of office expired, because I was aware that while it had for some years entrusted its chief office to brethren who were not residents of the locality, most of its recent W. M.'s hailing from the city of Toronto, last year it had elected a resident of Stouffville, determining to have home rule. I was anxious to see how W. Bro. Rae had succeeded. I had met the W. Bro. at different lodges I had visited, and knew him to be a bright active Mason, and therefore I was not surprised to hear the many kind things his brethren had to say of his work and interest in his lodge, as well as his attention to the finances. I am told the lodge is now in a first class position financially, and it looks as though its future was assured. I did not see any work beyond closing in the three degrees, but I knew what W. Bro. Rae's work was, and I am sure his successor, W. Bro. Stark, will be a capable and accurate officer. All the officers are men of intelligence, and no doubt the lodge will prosper under their guidance. I found they have a nicely furnished hall, and everything necessary to make them comfortable. The secretary, brother Hand, is a particularly well equipped brother, and I hope the lodge may induce him to take an active part in its labors. His books are just what any one meet-

ing the brother would expect, correctly and neatly kept. R. W. Bro. Roaf installed the new officers, except the Junior Warden, after which the lodge was closed. The visitors enjoyed the hospitality of the lodge at a banquet prepared by Bro. Miller, who owns one of the best conducted hotels it has been my lot to strike in Ontario.

York Lodge, No. 156, Eglington : I visited this lodge on the 20th December, 1896, being the occasion of the election of officers. I was accompanied by the W. M. and members of King Solomon Lodge, V. W. Bro. Oliver, W. Bro. Vair, etc. There was an attendance of thirty. There was no work. The lodge demonstrated its anxiety for strong and wise government by the election upon this occasion of three P. M.'s as W. M., S. W. and J. W. W. Bro. Muston, the retiring W. M., opened and closed his lodge with accuracy. The visitors were hospitably entertained, and spent a very pleasant and profitable evening. This is an old Lodge, and has done good work in the cause of Masonry. It has brought to light a number of strong rulers in the craft, and everybody who has respect for good honest work must admire it and desire to see its usefulness prolonged. I find, however, that owing to its circumstances and surroundings it has ceased to progress numerically, and its future causes its Past Masters and myself some anxiety. It is hedged in by surrounding lodges to such an extent that it is almost without territory. It has exhausted to a great extent those eligible and desirous of joining Masonry, and as it will not lower its standard of excellence its powers of increase are for the time exhausted. I think the surrounding lodges, particularly in the city, ought to be very generous and kind to this lodge, both for its past good record and the good men who are keeping it alive. If it were possible for it to be treated exceptionally and given concurrent jurisdiction with the city lodges, it would very soon grow in strength and prosperity. Beyond the danger of the precedent no possible harm to the existing city lodges could occur, while this generous treatment would put York on its feet. I commend this matter to the attention of my successor, the consideration of Grand Lodge and the generosity of the city lodges.

Stevenson Lodge, No. 218, Toronto : This lodge bears an honored name which ought to spur it to great exertions. I visited this lodge at its regular meeting, Monday, May 10th, 1897. There was a fair attendance of members and visitors. The W. M., Bro. Watson, and his officers worked the second and third degrees. The W. M. was suffering from a severe cold and was not able to do himself justice. I am not satisfied that he is supported properly by his subordinate officers. I

spoke frankly upon this subject and I am sure the brethren will act upon the suggestions I made. I was the recipient of many kindnesses at the hands of members of this lodge when first I joined the Craft in Toronto and I would like to see it maintain its good old reputation. The officers owe it to this lodge that they be faultless workers. I paid a visit to Richmond Lodge as the guest of this lodge, they having chartered an electric car. At their own refreshment room they make every one at home and happy and I am indebted to them for kindness and courtesy. The minute book is correctly and neatly kept and the present Secretary is a painstaking official.

Zeredatha Lodge, No. 220, Uxbridge: I had made two or three attempts to fix a date with this well known and bright lodge, but business was so pressing that it was not until Monday, the 18th January, 1897, that I was able to visit them. The evening was the coldest of the winter and an election campaign was in progress, owing to which the attendance was not up to my expectations. I had the pleasure of meeting here V. W. Bro. Chapple, the member for the county in the Ontario Assembly, he being an enthusiastic member of this lodge. The work of the third degree was exemplified for my inspection, the work being divided between W. Bro. Bascom, J. P. M., and W. Bro. H. J. Gould, the present Master. This was done that I might report on the work of both years, as no inspection of W. Bro. Bascom was made. I found the officers able and proficient in the work of the third degree, and this applies to the officers of 1896 and 1897. My experience of Zeredatha is merely a repetition of that of former D. D. G. M.s—good lodge, good work, and good fellowship all. The inner man is not neglected in this hospitable lodge, and I enjoyed myself at the refreshment board as fully as in the lodge.

Ionic Lodge, No. 229, Brampton: I visited this lodge, the most western in my district, on Tuesday, the 15th December, 1896. I found it to be in an excellent state. There was a large attendance of members on the occasion of my visit as the officers of 1897 were to be installed. W. Bro. Roberts and the officers for 1896 worked the second degree in a manner which deserved the very highest praise. The Past Masters evidently take a strong and active interest in the work of the lodge, as I found eleven present in the East. This lodge has an excellent Secretary, and W. Bro. Morton deserves the thanks of his lodge for the great interest he takes in its affairs. His books are well kept. I was entertained by the brethren in a right royal manner at the refreshment board and renewed many pleasant acquaintances formed during a visit of St. Paul's Chapter to this home of good Masons. Being obliged to re-

turn to Toronto the same evening I was not able to witness or assist in installing the officers of 1897.

Ashlar Lodge, No. 247, Toronto: Taking Ashlar Lodge all in all, I make bold to say I consider it the model lodge of my district. In all that goes to make up a perfect Masonic Lodge it is well equipped. There is found in this lodge an *esprit du corps* not to be excelled in any body of men or Masons. Every member considers he has the honor and reputation of the lodge in his keeping and each vies with the other in promoting and extending its power and usefulness. It has given some eminent men to the craft, amongst whom R. W. Bro. Blackwood, whose death was a loss to the whole craft, and R. W. Bro. Ben Allen, may be mentioned. These two R. W. brethren have done a great deal for Ashlar. It reveres the memory of the one who is gone and delights to honor the one who is with it. I suppose the ideal Masonic Lodge is one with a large and harmonious membership, drawn from all ranks and classes, which does accurate and eloquent degree work, has a large benevolent fund, is hospitable, and careful to observe social and Masonic customs. Ashlar possessess all these attributes of Masonry in a large degree. No one can deny the numbers and harmony of the lodge, nor the fact that it welcomes all ranks and classes, looking only to the man's reputation and character. The accuracy of its work and effective rendering is a proverb throughout the district. It has a large sick committee and a benevolent fund of \$4,300.00 to relieve distress, which, owing to its excellent membership, it is not often called on to do. It has 31 life members whose fees are all commuted with Grand Lodge, and still has nearly \$1,000 at the credit of its life membership fund. It entertains with good taste and warm hospitality, and it returns all the visits it receives, while nobody ever saw the Master of Ashlar visit without large following. A lodge like this is a power for good in the Masonic community, and too much cannot be said in support and approval of the example it sets. I visited this lodge on the occasion of its September meeting, 1896, to pay my respects to W. Bro. Morrison and his officers. I visited on the 22nd December on the occasion of the installation of the officers for 1897. I had purposed visiting Alpha, but got caught in a blizzard which demoralized the car service. I visited again on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the lodge, February 23rd, 1897, when the Grand Master was present, and also M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray and R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, and the first degree was worked. I visited again on the 27th April, when five lodges were paying a visit.

Patterson Lodge, No. 265, Thornhill: I visited this lodge

at its regular meeting on the 11th February, 1897. The attendance was disappointingly small, the explanation given being that the illness of some and the business avocations of others kept them away. This lodge is not progressing numerically, as it is situated in a locality where there are a number of lodges in close proximity. Richmond, Vaughan and Robertson Lodges are all active lodges, and I fear Patterson suffers in consequence. The lodge seems weak financially, as an account of \$1.75, its share towards regalia for the D. D. G. M., was laid over until more prosperous times. The second degree was conferred by W. Bro. Francis, J. P. M., as the W. M. was not prepared to do the work. The manner in which the degree was conferred was not satisfactory to me, and I requested more attention to details, and recommended careful study on the part of all the officers. The candidate struck me as being a very bright man, who will be a credit to the craft. I was delighted to meet W. Bro. Steel, assisting by his genial presence to keep brotherly love alive. I spent a short time at the hospitable board with the members of Patterson, and found them all inspired with love for the craft, and hoping for the day when their struggle with adverse circumstances shall cease. The books were inspected and found correct.

Brougham Union, No. 269, Brougham : I visited this lodge on its regular meeting, May the 19th, 1897. I was accompanied by W. Bro. Ferrier, a P. M. of the lodge, who now resides in Toronto, and Bros. Felsberg and Maill, of Toronto. W. Bro. Ferrier very kindly drove me from Locust Hill Station to the lodge room, some six miles, through a lovely and prosperous country. The lodge room is large and comfortable and fairly well appointed. The lodge has a membership of forty drawn from considerable distances round, and it is surprising the regularity with which meetings have been held considering the long way some of the members have to come. The lodge is in a sound position financially and is doing well. The W. M., W. Bro. Barnes, is evidently the right man in the right place, respected and obeyed by his brethren. It was intended to work the third degree, but the candidate did not come. At my request the W. M. opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees, and the work was well and accurately done, and from the manner of it I am sure the officers are competent to do any work of the three degrees. There being no work I addressed the brethren upon matters of interest and importance to the district, and answered such questions as were put to me upon points upon which the brethren wanted information. The books are splendidly kept, the secretary being a particularly well qualified brother. There were a num-

ber of visitors from Markham, Stouffville, Uxbridge and Toronto. A pleasant hour was spent at the refreshment table, and I parted with my brethren of Brougham Union with the warmest feeling of respect for the good work they are doing.

Robertson Lodge, No. 292, King : I visited this lodge on Monday, the 10th June, its regular meeting. This lodge was moved from Nobleton, and immediately it reached its new home under the able guidance of W. Bro. the Hon. E. J. Davis, it took on energetic life and promised to become one of the most active and useful lodges in a locality which may be called a garden of Freemasonry, there are so many strong lodges close together. I found the lodge in a comfortable building, well officered, and with a large membership. W. Bro. Davis is doing all he can to promote harmony and good fellowship, and I am in hopes that in the near future this excellent lodge will enter on a new era of prosperity. Just now, I regret to say, no new material is being added, but with very little forbearance from what I heard and saw, all doubts and difficulties will vanish and Robertson will make a record. It has all that is required to make it a strong lodge—plenty of able men, a large membership, and a good feeling on the part of outsiders. I had the pleasure of seeing the third degree conferred, and was quite satisfied with the work. I was hospitably entertained by the brethren after the lodge closed. I hope to see by the report of my successor that this lodge has once more become active in making Masons. I examined the secretary's books and found them well kept.

Humber Lodge, No. 305, Weston : I had met a number of P. M.'s of this at a visit I paid to Blackwood Lodge, and from what I then saw I looked forward to seeing good work and receiving the right hand of fellowship when I entered their own Masonic home. I was fortunate in having W. Bro. St. John of Alpha Lodge, as well as a number from Stanley Lodge, accompany me on this visit. I found the lodge room comfortable and commodious, and well furnished. Its capacity was taxed by the large number present, but the kindness and attention of W. Bro. Barker made all at ease and happy. I had the pleasure of seeing the officers initiate a candidate, and I was much pleased with their work. Here I found another model Inner Guard ; indeed all the officers were careful and accurate. V. W. Bro. Pachulles presented the working tools with capital effect. This lodge is so near the city that it feels bound to emulate the best workers there, and it certainly has attained a very high standard and need not fear comparison with any lodge. The books I found well kept and the Secretary a painstaking officer. At the refreshment board our time was limited,

W. Bro. St. John, who represents the constituency in the local house, and W. Bro. Gray, both of Alpha, made excellent and instructive speeches. The hospitality of Humber Lodge is proverbial, and was on this occasion up to its usual standard.

Blackwood Lodge, No. 311, Woodbridge: I visited this lodge at its regular meeting, 16th of April, 1897. The founder of this lodge was R. W. Bro. Blackwood, who has left his impress upon it to this day. Accurate work was one of this excellent Mason's leading characteristics, and this lodge is strong and accurate in its work now as the result of the rules laid down by him when it was in its infancy. The lodge seems to have taken a fresh start this year after a year or so of quietness. It has received four candidates already and has two more before it. The W. M. and officers worked the third degree at this meeting and in no other lodge have I seen better work. The degree was conferred without a verbal change or inaccuracy and forcibly and intelligently as well. The floor work was a treat, the work of the Deacons being simply perfect. I need scarcely say that nothing but close study and frequent rehearsals have brought this lodge to its present state of efficiency, the adherence to the rules of R. W. Bro. Blackwood by subsequent Masters explains it all. By his work and example you may know the good and true Mason. Truly Bro. Blackwood's works bear testimony to his character although he has gone from the scene of his labors. Well may his name be carried at the head of the list of members of this lodge, "entered on his reward in Paradise" recorded opposite it. The secretary, Bro. Agar, is one of those genial Irishmen who are almost a Masonic lodge in themselves, brimming over with brotherly love, geniality and hospitality. Need I say that his books are marvels of neatness and accurate work. All the members of Blackwood are first-class men, and the lodge has all appearances of healthy and vigorous life. The hall is comfortably fitted up, but is not such a room as meets the desires or aspirations of the brethren, who are anxious to obtain better quarters as soon as their finances will permit. Of course there was a banquet prepared by W. Bro. Haystead, and of course it was a first-class spread, speech song and story found us such willing listeners that I am afraid to say when we parted. I wish to bear testimony to my obligation to the brethren of Blackwood for exemplifying all the characteristics of good whole-souled genial Masonry for the edification and enjoyment of representative of the Grand Master.

Doric Lodge, No. 316, Toronto: This lodge has not been as active in work as formerly although its reputation for kindness to visitors and all other attributes that surround good

Masonry, are present in as great a degree as ever. This lodge has a record of which it may well be proud, and it is to be hoped that it will be kept up in the future by the same excellent character of material as it has now within its ranks. The W. M., Bro. H. H. Williams, met with an accident which has prevented him discharged the duties of his position, and this has of course been a cause of regret, as a lodge likes to see its W. M. present, when possible. The Junior Warden too, I am told, has been absent from nearly all the meetings, although I did not learn that it was illness that kept him away. W. Bro. B. N. Davis, the J. P. M., was so much respected for accurate work, excellent judgment and kindly manner when in the chair, as to endear himself not only to his own lodge but to all those who came in contact with him. W. Bro. McCartney is also a brother who stands well with the craft and his lodge. The evening I was present W. Bro. McCartney occupied the chair and worked the first degree in a first-class manner, as did all his officers in their respective parts. The Secretary, Bro. H. E. Griffith, is an excellent officer and has his books in a first-class condition. The hospitality of the lodge on the occasion of my visit was as it always is in Doric. I spent a pleasant evening, my only regret being that this lodge was not adding to its strength as in former years, but when its W. M. is able to assume the duties of his position perhaps there will be a change. There is nothing to prevent the lodge doing as good work as of old, and I hope before my successor reports that he will find it adding to its numbers and restored to all its former activity.

Zetland Lodge, No. 326, Toronto: This lodge has always enjoyed a reputation for good works, and every D. D. G. M. has had nothing but praise for it. The character of its work, so far as the conferring of degrees is concerned, has always been first-class. Its large and enthusiastic membership, it having perhaps a larger percentage of young men than any other lodge, has given its energy, vim and go, while its hospitality has a reputation which is international. The election of one of its P. M.'s, R. W. Bro. Malone, to the position of D. G. M. has given it an additional cause of pride and satisfaction. During my term of office I visited this lodge three times, first in September to assist in welcoming R. W. Bro. Malone as D. G. M. as well as to pay my respects to W. Bro. McPherson and his officers and the members of Zetland, to all of whom I was under obligations. I need scarcely say that the reception was splendid and highly gratifying to the Deputy Grand Master. I visited the lodge a second time on Thursday, the 31st December, 1896, when the officers for 1897 were installed by R. W. Bro. Malone. On the same evening W. Bro. O'Hara and the P. M.'s initiated

a candidate in a manner that was not to be excelled by any set of officers. When I say that the new officers were installed, the P. M.'s worked the first degree, and we saw the old year out and the new year in, the instructive and pleasant nature of the meeting can be imagined. I paid a third visit on Friday, April the 23rd, to assist in receiving the Grand Master. There was a large and enthusiastic meeting of about three hundred Masons to do honor to the Grand Master and Zetland Lodge. W. Bro. McCabe and the officers of 1897 worked the first degree in a manner to satisfy the most fastidious. The G. M. was much pleased with the warm and generous reception hereceived. This lodge needs no praise from me to established its character. All I need say is that it is flourishing as of yore. Its work is perfect. Its financial standing good, and its hospitality unbounded. The Secretary, Bro. R. A. Donald, is a most courteous and painstaking officer, and his books are properly kept.

Orient Lodge, No. 339, Toronto: This lodge claims all the good Masons east of the classic Don River, and it certainly has a large number of them. I visited twice, first on the 1st of September at its regular meeting, W. Bro. Chick being W. M. A number of prominent Masons were in attendance, V. W. Bro. Jones, W. Bro. Fred. Inwood, and others. W. Bro. Chick worked the first degree in a manner which could not be excelled, and his officers were all capable and accurate. W. Bro. Chick is one of the most genial and energetic Masons in the city, and is a general favorite. He did excellent work as W. M. of Orient and reflected credit upon his lodge. I visited again on Tuesday, the 6th April, when I held a lodge of instruction to work the second degree. Naturally there was a large attendance, and many prominent Masons were of the number. R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, D. G. M., R. W. Bro. Hetherington G. R., R. W. Bro. Tait, and W. Bro. Dunn, and many P. S. lodge officers. The second degree was worked in such a manner as to silence criticism, and I am sure no inspecting officer could ask for a better object lesson in correct work than I saw here. I have to express my obligations to W. Bro. Gillies and his lodge for the courtsey and readiness with which they acceded to my request to do this work for me, and my thanks for their correctness and precision. This lodge is harmonious and prosperous and occupies a place in the very front ranks of city lodges. Its hospitality is in keeping with its other characteristics. It has a capable and painstaking Secretary and its books are all well kept.

Georgina Lodge, No. 343, Toronto: This lodge continues to prosper in a phenomenal manner, largely increasing its

membership both by initiation and affiliation. A tremendous responsibility was assumed by those who undertook the establishment of this lodge in its new home. A suitable hall had to be obtained and completely furnished, besides numerous other expenses. The lodge has, however, been equal to all its responsibilities and has proved its ability not only to live in its new home but also its intention of making old and well established lodges look to their laurels. It has strong men directing its affairs and they have the satisfaction of seeing their efforts succeed beyond their expectations. R.W. Bro. E. T. Malone, D. G. M., R. W. Bro. Harry Collins, V. W. Bro. Ardagh, V. W. Bro. Cowan, and many other prominent Masons are members, and to be found here at every meeting. The W.M. of last year, W. Bro. Whale, the W. M. of this year, Bro. A. L. Malone, and the Master just installed, W. Bro. Flatt, are all capable men. The work of the lodge, it goes without saying, is good and accurate in all the degrees. The hospitality of the lodge is boundless and whole hearted, and in every respect it is a live and prosperous lodge. I visited this lodge twice, first in its September meeting in 1896 to assist in receiving R. W. Bro. Malone as D. G. M., when there was a most enthusiastic meeting, all the lodges in the city being represented, and again on 3rd April to inspect. The books are well and accurately kept.

Occident Lodge, No. 346, Toronto: This lodge has done good work in Masonry in Toronto, and its numerous friends are anxious to see it come into the front rank again. I visited it on the 18th November, 1896, when the election of officers took place, which passed off in a pleasant and harmonious manner. The first degree was worked by W. Bro. Prince and his officers. Although it was the first initiation of the year the work was done in a very creditable manner. I was particularly struck with the work of Bro. Williams, who delivered the charge to the candidate. This beautiful charge is too often omitted, which is a great pity, as it is one of the most instructive parts of the work, for it lays down in eloquent language the rules of life which should govern the true Mason. The brethren are most kind and hospitable, and I spent a very pleasant time in social intercourse around the refreshment board. This lodge has great elements of prosperity and strength if they can be given free play. I am strong in the hope that all clouds will soon pass away, and that under a bright clear sky of concord and love this lodge will assume that strong position which its numbers, energy and hospitality entitle it to hold. It has an excellent secretary, who looks after his work in a painstaking manner, and his books are models.

River Park Lodge, No. 353, Streetsville : I visited this lodge officially on the 11th of May, 1897. I was accompanied by W. Bro. White of Stanley lodge and Bro. Ritchie of Ashlar. The W. M. and his officers exemplified the work of the first degree, and I had every reason to be satisfied with their proficiency. From what I saw I am satisfied this lodge has officers well able to work the three degrees perfectly. The lodge, I was informed, is prosperous and doing more work than it has for some years back. The members are a first-class lot of brethren and well calculated to make up a thriving and good lodge. The books are kept in a neat and methodical manner and there is nothing about the lodge calling for improvement. After the lodge was closed we were banqueted at the hotel, and a more enjoyable evening I have seldom experienced. Speech and song and story kept us in good spirits, and so much in love with one another that we almost disputed with the lark the palm for early rising. W. Bro. Congdon is what is technically called "a daisy," and his hunting and fishing stories are of a character that sometimes strain his cable tow, but it has become tempered to resist the strain.

Brock Lodge, No. 354, Cannington : I visited this lodge at its regular meeting on Wednesday evening, the 14th of April, 1897. This is the farthest north lodge in the Toronto district. The W. M. Bro. Kift very kindly met me at the station and saw me safely lodged. This lodge is situated in a thriving town in the fine township of Brock, in the midst of an intelligent and thriving community, and, as might be expected, it is in a prosperous state. From what I saw of the members I think it has the men to make it as good a lodge as there is in the district, and as the Past Masters attend its meetings regularly and take an interest, it ought to be in a harmonious and prosperous state. On the occasion of my visit there was a good turnout, and the third degree was worked by W. Bro. Kift and his officers in a manner which did them credit, and disarmed criticism. All the officers were well up in their parts, while the W. M. was faultless. I consider this as active, energetic, and well worked a lodge as any I have seen in the district outside of the city of Toronto. The secretary, W. Bro. Sharp, takes a great interest in the lodge, of which he is an old and respected member. I found his books neatly and well kept in every sense. Considering the number of active young men who belong to this lodge, and who must in the near future assist in its government, and that it has such an excellent body of Past Masters, composed of men like W. Bros. Bingham, Sharp and others, one would naturally look for a brilliant future for it. Two candidates for ballot were up this

- evening. I fear that some members of this lodge are very strong in their views and not always willing to accept the constitution as the ultimate authority. This may lead to difficulty sooner or later. I was most courteously and hospitably entertained after the lodge closed at the Bennett House, where excellent speeches were delivered, and I was profoundly impressed with the talent and ability of its many members. I came away feeling greatly pleased, and it will be a matter of deep regret to me should my successor not find Brock as strong and harmonious as I did.

St. George Lodge, No. 367, Toronto: I visited this lodge twice, first on the occasion of the annual election of officers, when I was rejoiced to find a practically unanimous election, a large and harmonious meeting and every sign of good feeling and progress. I visited officially on the 2nd April, 1897, when I had the satisfaction of seeing W. Bro. Thomson work the third degree, and congratulated him and his officers on their proficiency. This lodge is now in first-class condition, and I look for it making great progress and pushing itself into the very front rank of city lodges. The books are well kept. This lodge has a number of able P. M.'s, who attend regularly and take an interest in its affairs. W. Bro. Thomson deserves the thanks of the city, and so does W. Bro. Denton, for the happy masonic family meeting under the auspices of St. George. The Grand Registrar, R. W. Bro. John Hetherington, was received with full honors by his own lodge on the occasion of my visit. This lodge is particularly kind and courteous to visitors, and on the occasion of my visits I, in common with the other visitors, appreciated fully the hospitable spread provided by this lodge. I am indeed glad to be able to report so favorably on the condition, work and prospects of this lodge.

Mimico Lodge, No. 369, Lambton Mills: I visited this lodge officially on Tuesday, June 8, 1897. I found W. Bro. St. John, the officers and members of Alpha Lodge, and W. Bro. Royce and the officers and members of Stanley Lodge also paying a fraternal visit. This lodge, although some little distance out of the city, is accessible by electric cars, and its good work and hospitality make it a desirable lodge to visit. I was pleased to find a large and well fitted up lodge room, appropriately and neatly furnished, and rejoiced to know that the lodge owned its own hall and was out of debt. There was a large attendance on this occasion, there being over fifty in the room. W. Bro. Gray and his officers initiated a candidate for my inspection, and I think I am warranted in saying that W. Bro. Gray is as accurate, effective, and impressive a worker as I have heard in the dis-

trict. His officers were first-class and merited praise. The candidate was an intelligent, bright young man and I was pleased to see his father, an honored member of the lodge, present to see his son brought to light. The secretary's books are well and neatly kept, and everything about the lodge seems healthy and prosperous. I now fully understand the good reputation which this lodge enjoys in the Masonic community of Toronto. A very pleasant hour was spent at the refreshment board and instructive speeches were made by W. Bro. St. John, who is the member for the constituency in the local house, and others. It is a pleasure to visit such an excellent lodge as Mimico.

Alpha Lodge, No. 384, Toronto: I visited this prosperous lodge three times during my term of office and it was also visited by the M. W. the Grand Master. The occasion of my first visit was to attend the election of officers and pay my respects to the W. M. for 1896, W. Bro. Ingham. I found the lodge prosperous and harmonious, having a comfortable home of its own, well appointed and complete in all details. I met R. W. Bro. Tait, W. Bro. Col. Gray, and a number of prominent Masons from other lodges. The election of W. Bro. St. John will, I think, mark a new and energetic departure in the career of this lodge, that brother having all the qualities of a successful ruler in the craft. The second degree was worked at this meeting. I had promised to visit on the occasion of installation, but was unable to do so. I visited a second time on February 4, 1897, when there was a large attendance of W. M.'s and P. M.'s, there being twenty in the east. W. Bro. St. John and his officers worked the first degree in a perfectly faultless manner to the minutest detail. No lodge could do better work and no W. M. could exemplify the work any better than W. Bro. St. John. All the subordinate officers were so good that it would seem invidious to single any one out. I was so pleased with the eloquent and intelligent work done here that I asked Alpha lodge to exemplify the work of the third degree at a lodge of instruction to be called for that purpose, and I was delighted with the promptness and courtesy with which W. Bro. St. John and his officers met my wishes. I visited again to hold a lodge of instruction on April 1, 1897. There was a large representation from the city lodges and Brampton, one of the most accurate lodges in the district, and other outside lodges sent their officers to visit and see the work. This sublime degree is of course the most beautiful in Masonry and when intelligently and accurately worked is calculated to make a profound impression on those witnessing it. I do not think the third degree could be worked with greater correctness, or more eloquently and impressively than it was on this occasion. The work was such

as to place Alpha Lodge, its Master and officers, at the front of third degree work in this city. It is no use going into details. Say how the third degree ought to be worked, and that is the way Alpha did it. I expected great things from Alpha with its present W. M., and my expectations have been more than met. Although a busy man the W. M. gives much of his time to the Craft, and is a welcome visitor in the city lodges. The books of the lodge are properly and neatly kept, and in every respect Alpha is a first-class lodge. Its hospitality is on a par with its work. A man who could not be at home in Alpha does not know what Masonic good fellowship means.

Zeta Lodge, No. 410, Toronto: I was only able to visit Zeta Lodge once, viz., on the regular meeting on Friday, the 28th May. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors present. This lodge also meets in a hall of its own, and is to be congratulated on the very comfortable and commodious quarters which it possesses. The W. M., Bro. J. C. Gray and his officers worked the second degree, and I found their work accurate and well done in all particulars. I always consider the second degree a fair test of a lodge's proficiency. If the officers are careful and accurate in the second the chances are strongly in favor of excellent work in the first and third. Judging Zeta by this standard it is no doubt a good working lodge. The W. M.'s of Alpha, St. George and St. Andrew's were present, besides a number of other brethren prominent in the craft. I was accompanied by R. W. Bro. G. C. Patterson, W. M., of Harmony Lodge. I found the Secretary's books neatly and indeed beautifully kept. This lodge has capable, energetic and skilled officers. The candidate who was passed was the best prepared I have seen during my term of office. I found no less than nine doctors among the members of the lodge. The visitors enjoyed the hospitality of the brethren after the lodge had closed, and all must have admitted that Zeta is a good live lodge, promoting in the flowery suburbs "sweetness and light."

Doric Lodge, No. 424, Pickering: I visited this lodge at its regular meeting on 18th March 1897. I was accompanied by R. W. Bro. Ben. Allen, Past Grand Senior Warden, which was a strong guarantee of an enthusiastic reception from the brethren who knew this R. W. Bro. so well. The roads were very bad, which prevented the attendance of some who lived at a distance, but there was a large number present to pay their respects to the Grand Lodge officers, which was much appreciated by us. The W. M., W. Bro. Elliott, was far from well, but at my request opened and closed in the three degrees in such a manner as to prove his title to be considered the accurate

worker he is reported to be. Part of the third degree was also worked for my inspection so that I was able to see the careful and accurate work of all the officers. This lodge has a reputation for good work and excellent membership, which is likely to be enhanced during the present year. The secretary is an efficient officer. I was royally entertained by the brethren after the lodge closed, and I spent one of the very pleasantest Masonic evenings I have ever enjoyed.

Stanley Lodge, No. 426, Toronto Junction : I visited this lodge at its regular meeting, Tuesday evening, the 4th of May, 1897. I was accompanied by the Grand Superintendent of Works, V. W. Bro. John Hall, and W. Bro. Hollingsworth of King Solomon. This was my first visit to Stanley and I was delighted to find so large an attendance and such a commodious and in every way well appointed lodge room. I should say this lodge is composed of enthusiastic Masons, anxious and determined to promote its interests in every possible way. With a membership of nearly one hundred of such material the good record it has made in its youth is easily understood. I had the pleasure of seeing the first degree worked by W. Bro. Royce and his officers, and can only say that in no lodge can better work be done. A great many of the officers are professional men, and the others are men holding positions of trust and responsibility, and this will account for the precision and accuracy of their work down to the smallest detail. I was delighted too with the excellent choir which assisted in the ceremony. There are few city lodges that have such a choir, and I congratulate Stanley on this powerful aid in their excellent work. The secretary, like all the others, is a careful and enthusiastic officer and all his records are kept as they ought to be. The hospitality of Stanley is always generous and in no lodge do visitors feel more at home. Everything I had a right to expect I received, and I enjoyed every minute I was with my brethren at Stanley.

Acacia Lodge, No. 430, East Toronto : I visited this young lodge twice, the first time at its September meeting in 1896, W. Bro. Walters being W. M. There was no work on this occasion, but the brethren did all they could to make up by their kindness and warm welcome. This lodge is in a railway centre and numbers many railway men in its membership. W. Bro. McMaster, who is an enthusiastic P. M. of the lodge, was present. On May 17, 1897, I redeemed my promise to W. Bro. Parsell while he was yet Senior Warden, to visit him on his attaining the chair. I had the pleasure of accepting the invitation of Ashlar Lodge to take a seat in their four-in-hand, and had the members of that excellent lodge as fellow visitors. The

W. M. had expected to work the first degree for my inspection, but the material not being on hand he took up the tools of the second degree and passed a candidate. The work was very good indeed and reflected credit on the officers, especially as they took up work they had not expected. W. Bro. Parsell makes a good Master and evidently enjoys the respect of his brethren. The Senior Warden and Junior Deacon were absent, both being ill, but W. Bro. Richardson showed an ability in the west that demonstrated his closeness of touch with the work. I was much pleased to hear the candidate repeat his obligation correctly in response to a request for something further. They evidently intend to turn out bright and intelligent Masons in Acacia. This young lodge is doing admirably and growing apace. The books I found to be properly and neatly kept. Our time at the refreshment board was pleasant and edifying, consisting of song and speech. My good friend R. W. Bro. Allen was one of the party, and as Past Grand Senior Warden, lent dignity as well as geniality to the visiting party. I would like to visit Acacia Lodge often if my time permitted.

Harmony Lodge, No 438, Toronto: The circumstances under which this lodge came into existence commended it to me as a lodge which should receive every courtesy and encouragement at my hands, consequently I have felt it a duty, as well as a pleasure, to visit it frequently. The fact that it was consecrated during my term of office, and is therefore the youngest lodge under my care, was an additional reason for my devotion to its interests. I felt sure that R. W. Bro. Geo. C. Patterson, its first W. M., would put it so strongly on its feet that his successor would have no anxiety, and the excellent staff of officers by which he was surrounded demonstrated his determination to make the work first-class. When the time came for Bro. Patterson to surrender his trust, I, in common with all his friends, and they are legion, pressed upon him the necessity for accepting a second term, but it was not until his lodge, by its unanimous support of him, expressed its confidence and satisfaction with his services, that he was induced to accept the office of W. M. for another year. His Senior Warden, Bro. Warring Kennedy, was indefatigable in all good work, and did not spare time or energy to raise the prestige of his lodge. Bro. Kennedy joined the craft late in life, but he has left no stone unturned to make up for lost time, and he certainly has put young Masons to shame by his labors and self-sacrifice. The Secretary, Bro. Cassidy, is an accurate and active officer. It is not necessary to particularize any further, suffice it to say that every member of the lodge is determined to make it a credit to the craft, and to show that there was a

place for it in this district. I participated in the consecration and dedication of the lodge by the W. M., the G. M. and officers of Grand Lodge. The lodge, at my request, held a Lodge of Instruction, and worked the first degree in an excellent manner. I have had frequent opportunities of seeing this lodge work all the degrees, and can truthfully say that its work is a credit to the order. The officers, from the W. M. down, are all capable and efficient, and good workers in all respects. There are a number of excellent P. M.'s belonging to this lodge, R. W. Bro. Geo. Bennett, R. W. Bro. Barton, and V. W. Bro. Walker, R. W. Bro. Ramsay and V. W. Bro. Egan, who have stuck to the W. M. and helped him in every way. R. W. Bro. Patterson has a lodge which need not fear comparison with any in its work and general character, while its hospitality is both generous and hearty. Did space permit I would like to enlarge at greater length on the success of the youngest member of the Masonic family.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I desire to express my gratitude for the honor done me in July last. I have tried to prove that the confidence of my brethren was not misplaced, by paying strict attention to my duty and in every possible way promoting the success of the craft. All my services have been more than repaid by the whole hearted hospitality I received. No man could have greater deference paid to him as a representative of the Grand Master, and I lay down the office with mingled feelings of gladness and sorrow. I am indeed glad to be relieved of labor and responsibility so onerous, but I am sorry to part officially from my brethren, for it has been a veritable pleasure to move among them. I desire to thank all those brethren who have assisted me and helped to cheer me on my way, R. W. Bro. Roaf, R. W. Bro. Ben. Allen, R. W. Bro. Tait, R. W. Bro. Geo. C. Patterson, R. W. Bro. T. D. Brunton. V. W. Bro. John Hall, and many others.

Fraternally submitted,

AUBREY WHITE, D. D. G. M.

Toronto District, No. 11.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Toronto District No. 11, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.—Continued.

NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Mem- bership.	Degree's conf'd		Admittions.	Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet- ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief in arrears.	No of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all arrearsages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
					E. A.	F. C.							M. M.	Regular.	Emergent.										Total.
235	Patterson.....	27	1	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	12	12	12	12	25 00	8	...	Dec., '96.	Good.	Good.	No.	300 00
269	Brougham	42	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	9	10	11	15 00	4	55 00	June, '96....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	Yes
292	Robertson.....	44	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	11	11	16	...	...	...	9 00	Dec., '94....	Good.	Fair.	No.	150 00
305	Humber.....	40	2	2	2	2	3	...	...	...	1	12	12	13	...	...	2	10 20	Jan., '97....	Good.	Fair.	Yes	Yes
331	Blackwood	37	6	4	4	4	1	1	...	...	...	1	12	13	13	48 00	5	51 23	May, '97....	Good.	Good.	Ill.	...
316	Doric	142	3	3	3	3	1	14	...	...	...	2	10	10	30	70 00	36	490 00	Dec., '96....	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	None
326	Zetland.....	216	2	13	8	14	2	14	...	...	...	10	14	50	...	46	372 00	Dec., '96....	Good.	Good.	Good.	Yes	None
339	Orient.....	170	13	16	13	16	...	3	1	...	...	1	14	620	58	25 00	40	312 00	Dec., '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	1000 00
343	Georgina	137	29	31	25	26	2	3	...	...	...	1	13	14	27	115 92	30	317 00	June, '96....	Good.	Good.	Yes	1200 00
346	Oceident	133	...	3	2	2	1	3	2	...	...	2	12	13	17	40 00	35	40 65	June 10, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	200 00
354	Brock.....	49	4	3	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	12	13	17	10 00	18	65 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	125 00
356	River Park.	32	2	3	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	12	14	12	42 00	11	300 00	Dec. 21, '96.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	500 00
367	St. George.	118	5	6	6	5	5	3	13	12	12	50	40 00	10	137 30	...	No debt.	Yes	...
369	Mimico.....	48	3	2	1	1	2	7	...	...	...	2	13	15	20	11 42	13	158 30	Dec., '96....	Good.	Excellent.	Yes	10 00
384	Alpha	162	2	11	13	10	2	6	...	...	...	2	13	15	48	11 42	4	109 20	June 24, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	1500 00
410	Zeta.....	70	8	3	2	1	1	6	...	...	...	1	12	13	22	25 00	...	...	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	None.
424	Doric	29	...	2	2	3	3	...	...	...	...	2	12	14	29	21 30	...	160 00	Jan. 8, '97...	Bright.	Bright.	Yes	1000 00
426	Stanley.....	100	11	12	14	9	6	3	3	...	...	1	12	14	40	5 00	...	150 00	July 4, '96...	Good.	Good.	Yes	350 00
430	Acacia.....	72	3	6	5	5	1	1	3	...	...	2	12	14	41	33 37	11	190 00	Dec. 25, '96.	Good.	Good.	A-1	None.
438	Harmony....	112	30	20	13	8	16	4	...	...	...	2	12	14	41	...	...	...	...	...	A-1	A-1	None.

ONTARIO DISTRICT, No. 12.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario:

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I take great pleasure in submitting to you my report on the condition of Masonry in the twelfth Masonic district during my term of office as D. D. G. M. for 1896-7. On the 16th October, 1896, I had the pleasure of acting for the Most Worshipful the Grand Master in consecrating and dedicating Havelock Lodge, No. 435. Though the distance is seventy-seven miles, I was accompanied by R. W. Bro. R. E. Wood, Peterborough, and W. Bro. Jos. White and Bros. Jno. Willis, and R. E. Blow, Whitby, whose kind assistance I greatly appreciated. This lodge gives promise of being one of the best in the district in the near future. At the close of the ceremony the installation of officers took place, after which the brethren adjourned for supper to the number of about fifty, when a very pleasant evening was spent. I again visited this lodge on February 12th, 1897, accompanied by W. Bro. Shaw, P. M., Composite Lodge, No. 30, Whitby, and again performed the installation ceremony for the ensuing year. Owing to a severe snow storm which prevailed all day the attendance was not as large as it otherwise would have been, there being twenty present. After the ceremony the newly installed officers passed a candidate in the F. C. degree, which was very fairly done considering it was their first attempt. This lodge shows wonderful progress, having increased their membership by twenty since dispensation was granted. They are all enthusiastic Masons—one brother walking five miles through deep snow to be present. It cost the members \$500 to furnish their lodge, which is both suitable and comfortable, and better still, paid for. There need be no fear for the future of Havelock

Mount Zion Lodge, No. 39, Brooklin: This is one of the weakest if not the weakest lodge in the district, and one of the oldest. I received a very unfavorable report last year from D. D. G. M. R. E. Wood, and which it quite deserved. I am pleased to say, however, that I am of the opinion that there are good prospects for an improved state of affairs and that

before another meeting of Grand Lodge my successor will be able to report Mount Zion a good active lodge in the district. I am led to this conclusion from the opinions expressed to me by several of its members who have made up their minds to give every attention to lodge work during the next year. I first visited this lodge unofficially on December 8th, 1896, accompanied by V. W. Bro. Taylor, W. Bro. Henderson, and several others from Composite, No. 30. There were present about a dozen members. Work on second degree was done by the W. M. in a fairly satisfactory manner considering there had been no meetings for nine months previous. My next visit was made in my official capacity on June 11th, 1897, and regret to say there had been but little improvement since my visit in December. It was at this meeting that steps were taken to put affairs in better shape, and arrangements made for an emergent meeting on June 29th, to work first and third degrees. Accompanied by fifteen of the Whitby brethren I again visited No. 39, but unfortunately through sickness neither candidates were present, and the work was postponed until next regular meeting in July, at which another application will also be received. In view of these facts and the interest shown by the brethren on the occasion of my last two visits I am led to believe a more favorable report will be received from Mount Zion in the near future.

Ontario Lodge, No. 26, Port Hope : Accompanied by V.W. Bro. Taylor, Whitby, I visited the lodge, February 18, and saw the W. M. and officers confer the Entered Apprentice Degree in a most excellent manner. In fact I do not think I ever saw it done better and would have been pleased to have seen some of the officers from other lodges present, and learn the possibility of working this degree with that impressiveness which its teachings should receive. This lodge is increasing in membership and its finances are in good shape. The lodge room, which is occupied jointly with Hope Lodge, is one of the best in the district.

Hope Lodge, No. 114, Port Hope : Visited this lodge also on the evening of February 18, jointly with the brethren of Ontario Lodge. A candidate was passed to the Fellow Craft Degree ; the manner in which the work was done reflected great credit on the officers. When brethren who had been but six weeks in office do as well as they did there can be no doubt as to the future of their lodge. This lodge is also prospering and report dues well paid up.

Orono Lodge, No. 325, Orono : I visited this lodge and installed the officers for the ensuing year on January 14, 1897. There was a good attendance of the brethren present. The

Past Masters of this lodge take considerable interest in its affairs and all are proud of their lodge room, which though small is quite large enough for present requirements and one of the neatest in the district. Though not increasing in membership its affairs are in good shape and will be well looked after by the present staff of officers.

Keene Lodge, No. 374, Keene : Accompanied by W. Bro. James Shaw, P. M. Composite Lodge, I visited this lodge February 11, 1897, when I was pleased to meet a large number of the brethren from Lakefield and Peterborough, among whom were R. W. Bro. R. E. Wood and R. W. Bro. Miller, P. D. D. G. M.'s of this district, also V. W. Bro. Morrow. There were two candidates for the Master Mason Degree, and I am pleased to state the work was very well done and reflected credit on the Worshipful Master and his officers. W. Bro. John Shaw is a painstaking officer and has faithfully performed the duties of secretary for three years and to his efforts is largely due the present satisfactory state of this lodge. Its affairs are in good shape and all its dues paid up. I regret to say, however, that the lodge room is one of the poorest in the district.

Spry Lodge, No. 406, Fenton Falls : This lodge has not increased in membership since its last annual report was submitted to Grand Lodge. I paid my official visit on March 10, accompanied by Bro. Fred. Hatch, Composite Lodge, No. 30. A candidate was initiated and the work fairly well done. The brethren have under consideration changes in their present rooms which will if carried out greatly add to their convenience. W. Bro. Fitzgerald takes great interest in its affairs, as does also the secretary, Rev. W. Farncomb. Their meetings are opened and closed with singing, which is ably conducted by W. Bro. Dr. Graham, who presides at the organ. The lodge also reports its members as being prompt in the payment of dues.

Verulam Lodge, No. 268, Bobcaygeon : I paid my official visit to this lodge 11th March, driving over from Fenelon Falls, a distance of twelve miles. On this occasion there was no work, the officers opening and closing in the three degrees, which was very well done. The brethren of Verulam have a very neat lodge-room, are the leading citizens of the town, and a lot of jolly good fellows. Though they show a decrease in membership during the past year, there need be no doubt of their future prosperity while the present members have charge of its affairs.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 428, Port Perry : I visited this lodge on March 12th, and had the pleasure of seeing a candidate initiated and one passed, which was well done. In the absence of the W. M. the chair was ably filled by W. Bro. Harrison,

assisted by W. Bro. Davis. The manner in which the work was done proved close application and a desire to be as perfect as possible. The brethren are now located in a handsome new lodge-room, which must be placed among the best in the district, due regard having been considered for the convenience and comfort of its members. When one considers the troubles and difficulties of the past, too much praise cannot be said in their behalf, and I bespeak for Fidelity Lodge a prosperous future.

Durham Lodge, No. 66, Newcastle : I visited the brethren of this lodge on 16th March, accompanied by Bro. Huggard, of Composite Lodge, No. 30, when I was pleased to see a candidate raised and glad to report that the work was well done, particularly that by the W. M., Rev. Jno. Farncomb. It was certainly gratifying in view of the difficulties the brethren have passed through to find them in their new lodge room, though small, no doubt large enough for all requirements at present, and very neat and comfortable. Though showing no increase since last Grand Lodge report, it is holding its own and with good prospects for the future. They report dues well paid up and possessors of a good bank account. There need be no fear for the success of Durham Lodge.

Algonquin Lodge, Minden, U. D. : This lodge was instituted on the 14th August, 1896. It being impossible for me to attend to those duties on that date, and as the brethren were very anxious to have the ceremony performed without delay, W. Bro. Fitzgerald, Fenlon Falls, kindly consented to do so, which duty was performed in a very satisfactory manner. I paid my official visit on the 16th February and found W. Bro. Freer and his officers well skilled in the work and desirous of obtaining any information that would assist them in performing their duties strictly in accordance with the constitution. On this occasion I had the pleasure of seeing the work exemplified in the M. M. degree and am pleased to say it was done in a very creditable manner. Though a young lodge, the manner in which the work was done would reflect credit on any of the older lodges in the district, and too much credit cannot be given W. Bro. Freer for the very impressive manner he sought to convey to the candidate the teachings of that beautiful degree. The lodge room though small is quite large enough and neatly furnished, and I have much pleasure in recommending that a charter be granted.

Cedar Lodge, No. 270, Oshawa : My official visit was made on 27th April, on which occasion I was accompanied by seventeen of the Whitby brethren. There was a large gathering of members present. Work was exemplified in the M. M.

degree by W. Bro. Kaiser in a very satisfactory manner, who was ably assisted by his officers. This lodge ranks among the first in the district, and no doubt will continue to do so, as not only the brethren in general but also its Past Masters take an interest in its affairs, and where such is the case prosperity is assured. The Secretary, W. Bro. Murton, is a good officer, whose efforts contribute largely to its success.

Lorne Lodge, No. 375, Omemee: Officially visited this lodge May 6th. The attendance was not large. The W. M., Dr. F. J. Brodd, ably assisted by his officers, conferred the F. C. and M. M. degrees in a very satisfactory manner. I found in this lodge also that the Past Masters take a good deal of interest, and in every case where such is found the lodge is a prosperous one. The finances are in good shape, although the dues are not as well paid as the members would wish. Their room is neat and comfortable, and none but skilled workmen are admitted, which I found on being confronted with a board of trial before admitted within the portals.

Faithful Brethren Lodge, No. 77, Lindsay: Accompanied by V. W. Bro. Chas. King, P. M., Composite Lodge, No. 30, Whitby, I visited this lodge May 7th. There being no work and the W. M. unavoidably absent, the chair was filled by W. Bro. Wallace, and assisted by the officers opened and closed in the three degrees in good form. This is one of our best lodges. It has a membership of about ninety, among whom are to be found some of the most active workers in the craft. The secretary, Bro. Corneil, reports the dues well paid up, which no doubt is largely due to his efforts in reminding the brethren in arrears on every summons. On this occasion I was pleased to meet R. W. Bro. Armour, who takes a deep interest in all its affairs. I should also add that the secretary's books are in excellent shape and a credit to him and his lodge.

Murray Lodge, No. 408, Beaverton: Visited this lodge May 11th. W. M. Dobson reported no work for about a year, and as might be expected under such circumstances the officers were somewhat rusty. The attendance was not large. The opening and closing on the three degrees, also the exemplifying of the M. M. degree was fairly done. This lodge reported dues well paid up. Everything was in good shape and its affairs will be, no doubt, well looked after. The best of feeling prevails among the brethren.

Jerusalem Lodge, No. 31, Bowmanville: My official visit was paid to this lodge May 12th. On this occasion I was accompanied by V. W. Bro. Taylor and W. Bro. White, Hatch and Blow of Composite Lodge. A drive of fourteen miles brought us to Bowmanville. There being no work the W. M., Bro.

Fitzgerald and his officers opened and closed in the three degrees, which, I am glad to say was most excellently done, which convinced me that where brethren are alive to the necessity of opening and closing their lodge in good form it is quite safe to conclude that they are equally as proficient in the "work" This lodge room stands among those in the front rank for neatness and comfort, I was pleased on this occasion to meet R. W. Bro. Wm. McKay, to whose energy and interest in its affairs this lodge largely owes its present standing.

Composite Lodge, No. 30, Whitby : This, the lodge of which I am pleased to be a member, I visited June 3rd. At this meeting a number of Oshawa brethren were present, among whom were R. W. Bro. McCaw and W. Bro. Kaiser. Composite has always stood well to the front among its sister lodges, its members taking considerable interest in Masonic work, the older ones by their example and encouragement keeping that interest alive in the younger members. On this occasion the W. M. Bro. P. Taylor, conferred the M. M. degree on two candidates. There was a good attendance present, and a pleasant evening spent.

Norwood Lodge, No. 223, Norwood : I had the pleasure of visiting this lodge June 8th, and glad to report that the improvement begun last year still holds good, and continued interest and a steady increase in membership goes on. A candidate was initiated and one passed, the work being fairly well done. The attendance was not large which I find to be generally the case at this season of the year in the rural sections. The business of the evening concluded, the brethren retired to the refreshment room where a very pleasant time was spent.

Clementi Lodge, No. 313, Lakefield : Visited this lodge Tuesday afternoon, June 9th, and notwithstanding the unfavorable hour and the more unfavorable weather, a good attendance was present. There being no work, the W. M. and officers opened and closed in the three degrees, which was, as expected, well done. The secretary reports dues all paid. Just here I would recommend that some of the other secretaries in the district write Bro. Dench and learn from him how to collect dues and not have to report so many of the members, two, three and five years in arrears when a little extra effort on their part, together with a proper system of notice, would prevent it. There is no better conducted lodge in the district nor more enthusiastic Masons than the brethren of Clementi Lodge.

Peterboro Lodge, No. 55, and Corinthian Lodge, No. 101, Peterboro : I visited these lodges jointly on the evening of June 9th, and was received by a much larger gathering of the

craft than on any previous visit throughout the district. There were a large number of the brethren from Keene present also on this occasion. The work of the evening was an initiation, which was very creditably done by the W. M. and officers of Corinthian Lodge. Peterboro Lodge having no work opened and closed in excellent form. There is no doubt of the ability of the Peterboro brethren to exemplify the work, and their lodge room is not only a credit to them but to the craft in general. The work of the evening being over the brethren repaired to the refreshment room where speeches and patriotic songs were indulged in, at the conclusion of which all joined in singing God Save the Queen, and dispersed.

Lebanon Lodge, No. 139, Oshawa: Accompanied by a dozen of the Whitby brethren I paid my official visit to this lodge on the evening of June 25th, where I was heartily received by a good attendance of the Oshawa brethren. This is one of the best lodges in No. 12 District, and with the present staff of officers will no doubt continue to hold its place among the sister lodges. On this occasion I had the pleasure of installing the officers. The newly installed Master, W. Bro. Punshon, in his inaugural remarks fully convinced all present that the affairs of Lebanon Lodge were in good hands and all predicted a prosperous year.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have issued the following dispensations: Fidelity Lodge, No. 428, Port Perry, to hold an "at home" December 15th, 1896; Faithful Brethren Lodge, No. 77, to attend divine service clothed as Masons, 20th June, 1897; Hope Lodge, No. 114, to attend divine service clothed as Masons, 25th June, 1897.

Algonquin Lodge, Minden, U. D., Instituted August 14th 1896.

My thanks are due to every lodge in the district in the matter of bearing the expenses of my visits. Not only has this been the case, but in addition to the usual fee my hotel expenses were also paid in some instances.

Before concluding my report I desire to thank the brethren of No. 12 District for the honor they conferred by electing me as their representative at last meeting of Grand Lodge. I also wish to thank them for their kindness and attention when in their midst on my official duties. I have only words of praise to add and no exception. The right hand of fellowship and goodwill was extended to me in every case, and it is with feelings of regret that the happy relationship that has existed during the past year is so soon to terminate.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

ANDREW M. ROSS, D. D. G. M.,
Ontario District, No. 12.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & M. A. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.
Table Showing the work done in Ontario District, No. 12, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Membership.		Degree's conf'd			Meet-ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief.	No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total or all Arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.		
		Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	E. A.	F. C.	M. M.	Deceased.	Regular.										Emergent.	Total.
26 Ontario.....	Port Hope.....	78	4	2	4	4	5	1	114	14	16	\$90 52	23	\$180 00	June 24, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	\$1500 00	
30 Composite.....	Whitby.....	68	4	4	4	4	4	4	12	12	12	27	60 25	10	85 84	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	475 00
31 Jerusalem.....	Bowmanville.....	37	2	1	1	1	1	1	11	213	15	17 98	6	80 00	Dec. 27, '96	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	1000 00	
39 Mt. Zion.....	Brooklin.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
66 Durham.....	Newcastle.....	28	2	2	1	1	1	1	12	13	15	10 00	16	90 00	Dec. 27, '96	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	300 00	
77 Faith Bro't.....	Lindsay.....	86	4	2	1	1	1	2	13	14	20	100 00	3	53 75	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Good.	.....	1200 00
101 Corinthian.....	Peterboro'.....	71	1	2	2	1	3	1	14	14	15	20 00	11	77 75	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	2000 00	
114 Hope.....	Port Hope.....	82	3	2	3	3	1	4	14	17	25	50 00	30	220 50	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	1200 00	
139 Lebanon.....	Oshawa.....	66	1	3	1	1	1	1	211	213	22	37 50	27	165 00	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Fair.	Yes	400 00	
145 J. B. Hall.....	Millbrook.....	105	4	1	4	5	3	2	14	15	30	33 00	23	125 00	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Good.	No.	.....
155 Peterboro'.....	Peterboro'.....	253	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	7	7	2 00	13	107 12 1/2	Dec. 27, '96	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	300 00
228 Norwood.....	Norwood.....	34	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
268 Verulam.....	Bohacaygeon.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
270 Cedar.....	Oshawa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
313 Clementi.....	Lakofield.....	39	1	.....	.....	.....	1	1	11	12	12	.....	4	49 64	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Fair.	Yes	200 00
325 Orono.....	Orono.....	32	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	11	11	.....	4	12 00	Dec. 27, '96	Fair.	Fair.	No.	400 00
374 Keene.....	Keene.....	28	4	4	4	4	5	2	12	12	11	.....	.....	.....	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Fair.	Yes	125 00
375 Lorne.....	Quenee.....	38	3	1	3	4	5	.....	1	9	9	13	25 00	17	163 50	.....	Favorable	Yes	300 00
398 Victoria.....	Victoria Road.....	27	7	1	4	3	3	1	8	1	9	13	1	9 50	Dec. 27, '96	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	250 00
406 Sirry.....	Fenelon Falls.....	38	1	4	2	1	1	9	211	11	5 00	3	27 43	Dec. 27, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
408 Murray.....	Beaverton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
428 Fidelity.....	Port Perry.....	45	6	5	5	4	1	.....	11	12	20	.....	2	6 00	Dec. 27, '97	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
435 Havelock.....	Havelock.....	14	7	.....	5	7	6	3	8	311	8	.....	.....	.....	Dec. 28, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	150 00
U.D. Algonquin.....	Minden.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT, No. 13.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the condition of Freemasonry in this district.

Commissioned by the unanimous voice of one of the largest meetings of representatives of the 13th Masonic District ever held, to superintend and generally look after the welfare of the twenty lodges of this district, I undertook the responsibility with the assurance of the hearty co-operation of my brethren.

My first act was to take advantage of the presence of so many representative brethren at the district meeting and not only request but to strongly advise them to keep their several lodges as free as possible from disturbing elements of any kind, and if any difficulty did appear to exercise the intelligence with which they were endowed, and the Masonic brotherly love in which they were instructed and which we all as Masons pretend to put into practice, so as to settle the same within their own lodges. If they failed then refer the difficulty to me.

My reason for urging this matter so strongly on the brethren is my firm belief that a very large proportion of the matters referred to the District Deputies could, by the exercise of judgment, tact and brotherly love, be more satisfactorily settled by the brethren in their own lodges.

Whether it was the adoption of my suggestion or the exceptional condition of Freemasonry in Prince Edward District, I cannot say, but I am pleased to report that not only has nothing occurred to disturb the harmony of the several lodges of this district, but on the contrary the kindest feelings exist among the brethren.

At an early date I had pleasure in appointing W. Bro. Rev. D. F. Bogart as District Chaplain, and W. Bro. R. E. Clarke as District Secretary, each of whom performed his several duties to the entire satisfaction of the brethren and myself.

It will be observed that I have omitted reference to lodge-rooms, except in special cases, because Grand Lodge has been already informed on that point by the able brethren who preceded me in the office I now hold.

Thanks to the excellent work done by my predecessors, and thanks to the good judgment of the brethren in electing well qualified officers of the several lodges, I am able to report that in every lodge in this district the officers are not alone able to conduct the affairs of their lodge, but have earnestly devoted themselves to the welfare of the craft.

It will be observed that with slight exceptions, which will be noted, my report is favorable and even optimistic, and lest there be a disposition to fear that I am inclined to distribute praise too freely, I desire to say in simple justice to the officers of the various lodges of this district, that my judgments were formed from the standpoint of just though cold criticism.

Though I have purposely omitted individual reference to the social features of my visits, as I wish to confine my report to lodge work only, I cannot refrain from expressing my most sincere appreciation of the uniform kindness of the brethren in their entertainment of me, which was as generous as it was fraternal.

It is with the deepest regret that I have to report that the angel of death has not passed by, but has rather spread his dark shadow across the threshold of the homes of some of our brethren, and youth, manhood and old age have fallen under the influence of his dread presence, but our sorrow is tempered by the hope that they have gone to join the Celestial Lodge on High, "where the world's Great Architect lives and reigns forever and ever." Moira Lodge mourns Bro. L. W. Yeomans and Bro. B. C. McCargar; Madoc Lodge, Bro. Edward Mouncey; Colborne Lodge, Bro. Robt. A. Brintnell; Craig Lodge, Bro. W. C. B. Rathbun; The Belleville Lodge, Bro. Fred Redick; Prince Edward Lodge, V. W. Bro. J. N. Carter, W. Bro. J. H. Richards and Bro. J. M. Cole; Conseccon Lodge, Bro. Willet C. Bedell; United Lodge, Bro. John Butler and W. Bro. J. M. Wellington; Trent Lodge, Bro. Jas. W. Hyde; Percy Lodge, Bros. Wm. H. Boyce, Wm. Montgomery and Jas. Dunnigan; St. John's Lodge, Bro. John Gillbard; Star in the East Lodge, Bro. Lewis B. Stinson; Mystic Longe, Bro. John W. Hicks.

SUMMARY OF MY VISITS.

1st. I visited each lodge in this district on the night of its regular meeting.

2nd. Irrespective of work to be done each lodge was opened in the three degrees; its general and financial welfare discussed; the secret work exemplified; the obligations reviewed, and the work considered esoterically and historically.

3rd. Each lodge has a capable Master and with very few exceptions good officers.

4th. The secretaries are exceptionally capable, and painstaking, and deserve special commendation for the interest they take in lodge affairs.

5th. Arrearage of dues still trouble the lodges, but they have promised to make special efforts to solve the question, and in some cases have succeeded in practically freeing their books from back dues.

6th. Sixteen lodges out of twenty are prosperous with future bright ; three are comfortable financially and fraternally but doing little work ; and one is very weak, though easy in finances. See detail reports.

7th. Although the lodges of this district have lost one hundred members by death, resignation, and suspension N. P. D., (see table of work) the district shows that it has held its own in members, and its fraternal and benevolent character is evidenced by the payment of nearly \$700 for relief.

The Belleville Lodge, No. 123 : On September 3 my first official visit was made to my own mother lodge, The Belleville. The Master, W. Bro. James E. Walmsley, was in the east, and the attendance was large. There was no degree work but from an intimate knowledge of the lodge I am pleased to report that it is in excellent condition fraternally and financially, and doing good work. W. Bro. Walmsley is at home in the chair and is an enthusiastic Master and Mason and is well supported by an excellent staff of officers. The secretary, V. W. Bro. W. H. Adams, keeps his books in splendid form, 's a most efficient officer and succeeds admirably in the performance of his several duties.

United Lodge, No. 29 : United Lodge was visited by me on October 15th, when I was greeted by the Master, W. Bro. C. A. Lapp and a well filled lodge. United Lodge is enjoying a season of prosperity under W. Bro. Lapp, who is an efficient officer, and the brethren are taking a keen interest in Masonic work. Three candidates for the second degree were in attendance, and W. Bros. Lapp, Dr. Wade and T. D. Wannamaker, each took a candidate and conferred the degree in a most creditable manner. There certainly need be no excuse for United Lodge not prospering while these worshipful brethren are connected with it. Bro. T. P. Keller is a most painstaking secretary, keeps a very creditable set of books and is careful about dues.

Moir Lodge, No. 11 : On October 21 I visited Moira Lodge and was received by a large number of brethren. The Master, W. Bro. I. O. Frost, is a capable officer and takes a deep interest

in Masonic affairs. The third degree was most satisfactorily exemplified and reflected great credit on each officer. Moira Lodge has continued its uninterrupted success under W. Bro. Frost's skillful guidance and has a promising future. The secretary, Bro. Hope McGinnis, is faithful in the discharge of his duties, has a neat, and clean set of books and looks carefully after lodge business.

Craig Lodge, No. 401 : My visit to Craig Lodge was made on November 3rd, 1896. The Master, W. Bro. W. J. Malley, is an earnest worker. The third degree was exemplified in a very satisfactory manner. The finances are easy and the lodge has done a fair amount of work all things considered. The Master and several of the faithful brethren are trying to bring back Craig Lodge to its old state of prosperity. Satisfactory reasons can be assigned for its condition during the past year or two and there is every reason to believe that under the influence of the brethren who take an active interest in lodge affairs in Deseronto the future of Craig Lodge is encouraging. The Secretary, Bro. E. Townsend, is a most prompt and efficient officer.

Franck Lodge, No. 127 : My visit to Franck Lodge was made November 16th in company with a large number of Belleville brethren. The brethren of Franck Lodge turned out in large numbers and a most successful meeting was held. The Master, W. Bro. John A. Consaul, is thoroughly familiar with the work and conferred the first degree in a most satisfactory manner. Floor and chair work were also good. Although the finances are easy, the question of back dues troubles this lodge. The brethren, however, agreed to take a brotherly though firm stand on this matter. The Secretary, Bro. C. M. Rowe, keeps a good set of books. R. W. Bro. John Shaw and V. W. Bro. H. Adams were present and addressed the brethren.

Mystic Lodge, No. 278 : Accompanied by W. Bro. R. Waters I visited Mystic Lodge on Nov. 19th. The Master, W. Bro. E. B. Mullet, and a few of the brethren are making a commendable struggle to retain the charter of the lodge in the face of a general apathy of the members. The lodge is easy in finances. but the brethren do not attend regularly. There was no degree work, but from a personal knowledge of W. Bro. Mullett I am pleased to say that he is a painstaking and capable Master. I am hopeful that W. Bro. Mullet and a few of the faithful brethren will bring this lodge to a state of efficiency, hence I recommend no action be taken against it for the present. This is the one exception to the high average state of general efficiency among the lodges of the district. The Secretary, Bro. Wm. E. Gillespie, keeps his books in good condition and attends to his duties well.

Eureka Lodge, No. 283 : The brethren turned out in large numbers on November 25th, when I visited Eureka Lodge. The Master, W. Bro. L. R. Terwilligar deserves and has the good will of his brethren for the excellence of his work, his devotion to Masonry and his skill as a Master. The first degree was conferred in splendid form, including both chair and floor work. Bro. W. Jeffers Diamond is noted as a model Secretary, hence his books are all that can be desired. Finances are free and prospects bright with Eureka Lodge.

Stirling Lodge, No. 69 : November 26th found me at Stirling Lodge paying my official visit accompanied by W. Bro. W. C. Mikel and W. Bro. R. Waters. Under W. Bro. Dr. H. J. Mikeljohn, Stirling Lodge is making progress. He is a good worker, is faithful to Masonry and to his lodge and is well supported. The third degree was most creditably conferred. The Secretary, Bro. Geo. Baily, keeps his books well and carefully. Finances are free, prospects bright and the brethren are enthusiastic.

Trent Lodge, No. 38 : Trent Lodge was visited December 15th. To a good turnout of the brethren of Trent was added a goodly number who came with me from Belleville, including R. W. Bro. Wm. Smeaton, W. Bros. Walter Alford, R. W. Waters and other brethren. The Master, W. Bro. Wm. O. Lott and his excellent staff of officers conferred the second degree in a very satisfactory manner. This lodge is in good condition in every sense. The Secretary, Bro. C. R. Howell is alive to his duties, keeps his books in excellent condition, and looks after finances so carefully that the lodge has no back dues. The future of the lodge is bright.

Golden Rule Lodge, No. 126 : My visit to Golden Rule Lodge was made December 18th. The Master, W. Bro. Geo. L. Dickson and a well filled lodge greeted me. The third degree was very satisfactorily exemplified. Although but little work has been done by this lodge during the year it is in comfortable condition and prospects are good. The Secretary, Bro. J. R. McRae, is newly elected but promises to be a valuable officer of the lodge.

Moir, The Belleville and Eureka Lodges : On December 28th I had the pleasure of visiting Moira, The Belleville and Eureka Lodges, when assisted by R. W. Bro. A. McGinnis, I installed W. Bro. Rev. D. F. Bogart, Master of Moira Lodge ; W. Bro. Col. W. N. Ponton, Master of The Belleville Lodge ; and W. Bro. Wm. Alford, Master of Eureka Lodge ; and also the other officers of the several lodges. We had the pleasure of the company of Bro. Sir Mackenzie Bowell during the entire evening.

Lake Lodge, No. 215: January 11th found me at Lake Lodge accompanied by R. W. Bro. Wm. Smeaton and W. Bro. R. Waters and a large number of Belleville brethren. The Master, W. Bro. A. L. Parliament, was in the chair and the lodge room was filled by the large attendance. The first degree was exemplified in a creditable manner. Finances are easy, the brethren are enthusiastic, and the future of the lodge is promising. The Secretary, W. Bro. George Roblin, is faithful to his duties and devoted to the lodge, keeps a good set of books and looks well after dues.

Colborne Lodge, No. 91: I visited Colborne Lodge January 15th, and found a large number of brethren present. The only work was installation of officers. The Master, W. Bro. Henry Brown, installed the officers from memory with such ease as to convince me that he could do all lodge work equally well. The lodge was opened in the three degrees. Colborne Lodge is financially comfortable, and generally prosperous although it has done no work this year. There are no back dues in this lodge. The Secretary, Bro. Keyes, is diligent and performs his duties satisfactorily and faithfully.

Prince Edward Lodge, No. 18: On February 11th, 1897, I was greeted by Prince Edward Lodge in its usual hearty manner. The attendance was large. The Master, W. Bro. Geo. L. Hough, was in the chair. The first degree was conferred in a manner to leave no room for criticism, and was highly creditable. The finances are very easy, the brethren are enthusiastic, and the future of the lodge bright and promising. Prince Edward Lodge has a reputation for doing good work and is keeping it up under the able direction of W. Bro. Hough. The membership is the largest in the district, and all told, it would be difficult to find many lodges in Ontario in better condition than this. The Secretary, W. Bro. J. H. Murney, keeps his books in excellent condition, and looks promptly after finances, and is a valuable officer of the lodge.

Consecon Lodge, No. 50: February 12th found me in Consecon Lodge with a few of its members, including R. W. Bro. Dr. Thornton. All day long there was a driving snow storm, which prevented some of Consecon members attending. W. Bros. S. G. Stafford, A. L. Parliament and Johnson and several other brethren of Lake Lodge were present. The Master, W. Bro. D. H. Rowe, was in the East. There was no work. The lodge, however, was opened in the several degrees and secrets, etc., exemplified. W. Bro. Rowe is an intelligent Master and Consecon Lodge is keeping up its good record under his guidance. The only feature which impressed me as being out of the regular was the method observed in having candidates sign

the by-laws. Instead of having a register containing by-laws which successive candidates sign, it has been the custom in this lodge since its foundation to simply present the candidate with a printed copy of the By-laws, have him sign his name on its cover, and then let him put the copy in his pocket and take it home. The lodge, therefore, has no record of signatures of its members. I strongly urged the lodge to adopt the usual method and as far as possible get consecutive signatures of all its members again. The Secretary, Bro. R. W. McKibbin, is an efficient officer and looks carefully after his work. The lodge is in a healthy condition.

Star in the East Lodge, No. 164: I visited Star in the East Lodge Feb. 16th, 1897. There was a large attendance, including several brethren from Prince Edward, Lake and Consecration Lodges. The Master, W. Bro. C. S. Cunningham, and his officers exemplified the third degree in a most satisfactory manner. W. Bro. Cunningham is an enthusiastic and capable Master. This lodge is fairly prosperous, is doing satisfactory work and has a good future. The Secretary, Bro. J. D. Wilson, is a painstaking and capable officer.

Tweed Lodge, No. 239: On March 12th 1897, I visited Tweed Lodge. The attendance was good. The Master, W. Bro. J. D. Huyck, was in the East, and the second degree was conferred in a creditable manner. The lodge is comfortable financially and doing good work, although not quite as prosperous as the active members hope to see it. It is occupying quarters conjointly with other societies, the objection to which I strongly pointed out. The excuse is that there is no other place available, and the brethren are not in a position to build. They claim to be ready to get the first room to be secured. The Secretary, Bro. C. W. Huyck, is alive to his duties and keeps his books in good condition.

St. John's Lodge, No. 17: St. John's Lodge received me on March 16th with a large attendance. The Master, W. Bro. Fred. Metcalf, was in the East, and is alive to Masonic affairs. The third degree was exemplified in a highly satisfactory manner. The whole tone of this lodge is of a high order. Finances are easy, the lodge is prosperous, and the future bright. The Secretary, Bro. John W. Bickle, keeps a good set of books, is attentive to his work, and is a capable officer.

Percy Lodge, No. 161: I visited Percy Lodge on March 17th, 1897, in company with W. Bro. Fred. Metcalf, of St. John's Lodge, Cobourg. The Master, W. Bro. W. H. Love, was called away on the same day to the sick bed of his sister, so I had no opportunity of seeing him work. I was creditably informed, however, that he makes a good Master. W. Bro.

Wm. Baker was in the East, and the attendance was large. The brethren of Percy Lodge have certainly not been guilty of canvassing for members, as there has not been a candidate in the lodge for eighteen months. Owing to no work for such a long period the lodge is not in its usual high state of proficiency, which probably is not surprising, although unfortunate, especially when the excellent class of its membership is remembered. The finances, however, are fairly easy and the brethren attend fairly well. The members hope to again see Percy Lodge where it always has been heretofore, viz, among the best in the 13th district. W. Bro. Baker is an energetic and painstaking secretary and takes an active interest in lodge matters.

Madoc Lodge, No. 48: Madoc Lodge was visited on April 13, 1897, when I was accompanied by Bro. F. E. O'Flynn. The Master, W. Bro. John R. Orr, was in the east and a good number of brethren were present. W. Bro. Orr has the cordial support of his brethren and takes an active interest in the lodge. The first degree was exemplified in a most satisfactory manner. The lodge is in a healthy condition, both in finances and fraternity, and did a good year's work. The secretary, Bro. R. T. Gray, keeps his books in excellent condition and is known for his fidelity to his work. The future of Madoc Lodge is promising.

Marmora Lodge, No. 222: My last visit was made on May 11, 1897, when I was received in Marmora Lodge by the Master, W. Bro. Thos. Mawson, and a large number of brethren. W. Bro. Mawson takes an active interest in Freemasonry. The second degree was worked most creditably. The Secretary, Bro. D. Mitchell, is attentive to his duties, and keeps his books in good condition. The lodge is harmonious, finances are free and prospects for the future are good.

GRAND MASTER'S VISIT.

On Friday, May 28th, 1867, Moira, The Belleville and Eureka Lodges were officially visited by the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, who was accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone. Many brethren from the surrounding lodges were present to join with the Belleville brethren in paying their respects to the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. It was estimated that over three hundred Masons were present. The occasion was a most auspicious one, and its memory will long be cherished as one of the most interesting and successful Masonic meetings ever held in Belleville. An appropriate address, beautifully illuminated and framed was presented to the M. W. the Grand Master, who graciously accepted it in a most felicitous speech.

The first degree was exemplified in perfect form by W. Bros. Rev. D. F. Bogart, Col. W. N. Ponton and Wm. Alford, Masters respectively of Moira, The Belleville and Eureka Lodges, and an excellent staff of officers, which called forth words of special praise from the Grand Master and also the Deputy Grand Master. After the lodge was closed a most elaborate banquet was enjoyed by the brethren, accompanied by the usual toasts. The speeches were of an exceptionally high order, each speaker evidently feeling the full inspiration of the memorable event. Besides a large number of Past Masters from Belleville and the other lodges of the district we had the pleasure of the company of R. W. Bro. A. McGinnis, Grand Senior Warden; R. W. Bro. Wm. Webster, P. D. D. G. M. Prince Edward District; V. W. Bro. W. H. Adams, Grand Senior Deacon; Bro. Sir Mackenzie Bowell; Bro. Harry Corby, M. P.; and Bro. W. B. Northrup, ex-M. P.

June 24th found me at Lake Lodge, No. 215, accompanied by Bro. F. E. O'Flynn, Senior Warden of Eureka Lodge, where I had the pleasure of installing W. Bro. W. C. Roblin and the officers of Lake Lodge for the ensuing year.

DISPENSATIONS.

The following dispensations were issued by me for the purpose of attending divine service: Moira Lodge, No. 11, Dec. 27th, 1896; Colborne Lodge, No. 91, June 20th, 1897; Stirling Lodge, No. 69, June 20th, 1897; Prince Edward Lodge, No. 18, June 20th, 1897.

I have one special recommendation which I desire to strongly urge on Grand Lodge. I note that while the lodges of this district have records of all lodge matters, they are usually kept in various kinds of ways and in various styles of books. In my opinion the books are not of a proper kind or character in many cases, and I have advised the secretaries in that respect. The remedy is for Grand Lodge to supply all necessary books for lodge purposes to the lodges at cost price, and thereby provide a uniform system of keeping lodge records throughout the entire jurisdiction of Grand Lodge. I am confident that all D. D. G. M.'s will agree with me on this point, as it would materially simplify their work.

Looking back over the year's work in connection with the office I have the honor to hold, I can frankly and truthfully say that from my standpoint I do not know of anything done by me officially that I wish to recall, nor anything left undone which I feel ought to have been done.

It was my intention to hold two Lodges of Instruction in the early part of the year, but my visits to the lodges in differ-

ent parts of this district convinced me that apart from the pleasure of the meeting there was nothing to be gained by Lodges of Instructions, as some of the lodges of this district were in such excellent condition that the work done by them would rival if not surpass that done by many metropolitan lodges. Consultation with prominent brethren decided me not to hold Lodges of Instruction, but to give special attention to any lodge in the district needing the same, which I did.

Now that the duties of my office are nearly ended and I am about to return to my brethren, the authority with which, by their favor and kindness I was clothed, I desire to renew my expressions of deepest appreciation for the honor conferred upon me and the uniform friendship and brotherly love displayed towards me by the brethren of every part of the district.

The hearty co-operation promised me by my brethren at my election to the office of District Deputy has been faithfully and lovingly put into active practice to such an unlimited extent as to make it invidious for me to say that to any one or to a few of my brethren I am especially indebted as every brother who could possibly be of service to me in the discharge of the duties of my office was always ready and willing to do what he could.

I shall remember with unmixed pleasure the visits I had the privilege of making to the various lodges ; the splendid condition of Free Masonry in this district ; the excellent officers of the year, and the friendly rivallary among the lodges.

If the brethren of the various lodges continue to exercise the same care as that shown in the selection of the officers I have visited, the future of Freemasonry will be assured in this district, and my successors will be able to report steady and uninterrupted progress.

To each of the nearly fifteen hundred Masons in good standing in the 13th Masonic District I offer the assurance of my kindest and most fraternal regard, and express my sincere hope that friendship and brotherly love may continue to be as characteristic of the brethren of this district during the coming years as they have been during my term of office, and that those genuine tenets of our time honored institution so incessantly inculcated in our lodges may continue to bear fruit—yea, one hundred fold.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

HENRY PRINGLE, D. D. G. M.,
Prince Edward District, No. 13.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Prince Edward District, No. 13, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Total No. of all Mem.	Mem- bership.		Degree's conf'r'd			Abliations.	Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Deceased.	Meet- ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief in arrears.	No of members 12 months	Total of all arreverages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
				Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	E. A.	F. C.	M. M.						Regular.	Emergent.	Total.									
11	Moir.	Belleville.....	151	9 21	8	8	9	9	1	1	1	19	2 14	4 18	55	150 00	40	\$350 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	\$200 00		
17	St. John's.	Cobourg.....	72	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	14	14	16	15 00	24	248 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	No Ins.		
18	Prince Edw.	Pictou.....	174	12 3	10	7	7	7	2	2	2	1	3 15	4 19	40	66 90	72	255 53	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	2500 00		
29	United.....	Brighton.....	57	8	2	8	9	12	1	1	1	7	2 13	2 15	224	2 75	5	75 25	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	No Ins.		
38	Trent.....	Trenton.....	83	6 1	6	6	5	2	2	2	1	1	1 12	1 13	17	65 00	38	212 00	June 24, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	600 00		
48	Madoc.....	Madoc.....	63	6 1	6	6	5	2	2	2	1	1	1 13	1 14	15	45 00	31	165 55	June 24, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	2000 00		
50	Consecon..	Consecon..	36	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	6 17	1 12	1 13	16	20 00	25	120 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Good.	Yes	250 00		
69	Stirling.....	Stirling.....	55	2 23	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1 11	1 12	40	104 00	25	120 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	1200 00		
91	Colborne..	Colborne..	77	2 10	1	8	6	5	3	2	3	1	1 11	1 12	37	116 40	22	112 25	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	1050 00		
123	The Bellev.	Belleville..	142	13	1	8	6	5	3	2	3	1	1 11	1 12	37	116 40	22	112 25	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	2000 00		
126	Gold'n Rule	Campbellford.	45	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	13	13	15	100 00	16	40 00	June 24, '97.	Good.	Good.	Yes	No Ins.		
127	Frank.....	Frankford..	74	6	4	6	6	6	2	2	1	3	3 10	2 12	15	100 00	16	40 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Good.	Yes	650 00		
161	Percy.....	Warkworth..	66	2	4	4	4	4	2	2	1	1	1 11	1 12	18	100 00	17	67 57	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00		
164	St'r in the E	Wellington..	51	6	3	4	4	4	3	1	1	1	12	12	35	.....	4	4 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	1000 00	
215	Lake.....	Ameliasburg.	61	3	1	2	4	3	1	1	2	1	13	14	10	.....	40	115 75	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00	
222	Marmora..	Marmora.....	42	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	10	14	.....	19	303 75	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	1700 00		
239	Tweed.....	Tweed.....	51	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	2	1	1 8	1 8	10	5 00	11	58 85	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Not good	Yes	No Ins.		
278	Mystic.....	Roslin.....	23	7	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	12	13	23	46 30	27	128 95	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	2000 00		
283	Eureka.....	Belleville..	65	7	4	5	9	6	2	2	3	5	1 11	1 11	13	25 00	5	29 25	June 23, '97.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	800 00		
401	Craig.....	Deseronto..	44	4	9	5	9	9	2	2	3	5	1 11	1 11	13	25 00	5	29 25	June 23, '97.	Good.	Fair.	Yes	800 00		

FRONTENAC DISTRICT No. 14.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

Permit me to submit herewith a report on the condition of Freemasonry in the district during 1896-7. My election to the dignity of D. D. G. M. was on my own part unsought ; unexpected by my mother lodge, and in the Grand Lodge itself unprecedented. I trust that those representatives of the lodges in this district who twice cast a tie vote, and chance, and M. W. Bro. White (to all of whom I owe it that the lot fell upon me) may not have been the instruments of any doubtful benefit to the district. I have squarely done my level best. Some of the lodges of this district have long felt aggrieved at a too apparent assumption on the part of a few past eminent brethren of the determining and bestowal of the honors. It is to be hoped that time will allay this feeling in the most effectual manner by removing all foundation for its continuance.

My first official duty was to welcome the W. M. the Grand Master to this district and to assist him in laying the corner stone of Grace Church, Gananoque, 24th August, 1896. After the ceremony Leeds Lodge, No. 201, treated its guests to a moonlight excursion among the Thousand Islands, when I had the privilege of assisting also in the discovery of Island No. 1001 (submerged) upon which our steamboat unmistakably *touched* as we were going down the St. Lawrence.

On the 10th of September, at the command of the W. M. the Grand Master, I instituted Westport Lodge under dispensation. Thirty-three brethren were present, including two P. D. D. G. M.'s, Judge Jas. Reynolds, Brockville, and R. H. Preston, M. D., Newboro', and a number of P. M.'s. This new lodge begins with excellent prospects.

16th September. My series of official visits began with my mother lodge, Prince of Wales Lodge, 146, partly because "charity begins at home," (and charity is the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason), but more in order that I might avail myself at the very outset of the counsel and instruction of R. W. Bro. R. W. Longmore, P. D. D. G. M., whose practical knowledge of Freemasonry is recognized throughout this

district as encyclopedic. The brethren at home treated me as well as if I had been a stranger. In praise of this lodge I may not express all that I think,—

“I am half afraid
 “Thou wilt say anon he is some kin to thee.”
(Portia, Merc. of Venice, a. ii, se. 9.)

There have not been many initiations in this lodge lately; country villages at times produce candidates excellent in possibilities, but rarely great in number.

October 1st. The Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston, received an official visit. This is called the banner lodge of the district, and it sustains its reputation. There were present about eighty brethren, including M. W. Bro. Walkem, P. G. M., R. W. Bros. Wilkinson and Hewton, and many other distinguished brethren. A brother was raised to the third degree. They did it well, nearly though not quite faultlessly. V. W. Bro. Sutherland, the Secretary, is a venerable Freemason, whom the young men treat with filial respect and beautiful reverence. The new lodge rooms are fit and proper; but unless there is a goodly attendance they must seem over large. After labor came refreshments at the British-American hotel; a high time, good songs were sung, good speeches made, good fellowship enjoyed. Here, and I may say once for all, everywhere I went your humble representative was most loyally, and often almost royally received.

15th October. With V. W. Bro. M. I. Beeman, M. B., I visited Victoria Lodge, No. 299, Centreville: Thirteen brethren were present. The members of this lodge are farmers almost all, and the day having been a very fine one, they too had all been working hard, and were tired. Among those present notwithstanding, were W. Bro. A. B. Carscallen, M. D., and W. Bro. Spowart, formerly of Bath, and Jas. Reid, M. P. P., Addington. The Secretary is a resident of Roblin, five miles from the lodge-room; the average distance of the members' homes from the lodge-room is six or seven miles. Their new neat hall, which is all their own, is a credit to them. They are ambitious to do better work,—an ambition to be encouraged. The utmost brotherly kindness abounded.

16th October. Union Lodge, No. 9, received a visit. Only fourteen members of this large lodge were there. W. Bro. York and Bro. Jackson, of Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 146, also were present. W. Bro. Herrington read an excellent essay on “China.” A number of Masonic questions, more or less searching and interesting, were asked and answered and the lodge closed in harmony. I resolved that this lodge ought to be visited a second time.

19th October. To Bath, Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 119. Sixteen brethren were present, six or seven of whom were P. M.'s. The lodge was raised and closed down through the degrees well and duly and then a number of questions and explanations of reasons why. A first-class supper was served afterward at the Wemp House. Bath possesses so many historic and ancestral associations that, aside altogether from fraternal welcomings, a visit there was to me necessarily pleasurable.

23rd October. Lorne Lodge, No. 404, Tamworth; sixteen were present, including R. W. Bro. Longmore, P. D. D. G. M. and four or five P. M.'s. The W. M. Bro. Geo. Dean is quite perfect in the ritual; the S. W. Bro. C. R. Jones, also merits special mention; although they all did good work well. We entered into a very pleasant, and I trust profitable discussion of the reasons of many things Masonic.

26th October. For the first time in my life I visited Prince Arthur Lodge, No. 228, Odessa; I was delighted to find their warrant (dated 1870) subscribed by Alex. Allan Stevenson, G. M., the M. W. Bro. who did so much to enliven the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge at Ottawa, in 1893. At Odessa, Rev. Bro. Dibb, W. M. adorned the East. There seemed on the part of some, an inclination to rest satisfied with work which was a trifle too suggestive of the rough and ready; and some appear to be sharper on finance than on points perhaps less important. However I am glad to be able to report of this lodge that it is enjoying a Masonic revival, and that the fears regarding its future, expressed by former D. D. G. M.'s, seem now unlikely to be fulfilled.

2nd November. To Minden Lodge, No. 253, Kingston. Goethe's "Faust" was played that night in Kingston, and so I suppose, there were not so many at the lodge as there would have been otherwise. I met again R. W. Bros. Walsh and Newton, P. D. D. G. M.'s and V. W. Bros. Waddell and Armstrong, besides a number of P. M.'s, also Bro. D. Rogers, M. P., Frontenac. W. Bro. Gill, W. M., and the Wardens and the Inner Guard did their work like true craftsmen: in fact it seems to be a well officered—I might almost say, a model lodge—worthily bearing a beautiful a name as any in the district. Afterward in an adjoining room, songs were well sung, and the brethren enjoyed a pleasant hour or two together. The old Tyler told me that he had seen and heard the same sort of thing every lodge night these 26 years, and he added, strictly in confidence, that he was tired of it.

16th November. I paid a second visit to Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 119, Bath. V. W. Bro. F. W. Armstrong, Grand Steward, in a thorough review of the first degree, both led the way and

followed it himself. The discussion of the foundation reasons for the several points proved most interesting. Although the membership of this lodge does not increase very rapidly, yet in my opinion it is an admirable, and for a country village, well high typic lodge of A. F. & A. M.

20th November. Albion Lodge, No. 109, Harrowsmith. Sixteen were present. Here I met R. W. Bro. F. S. Wartman, the immediate Past D. D. G. M. The W. M., Bro. Archd. Forsythe, and the S. W., Bro. A. Lockhart, did their work in a way to merit especial approval. In its style generally this lodge shows the advantage of numbering among its sons a P. D. D. G. M. The Secretary is a worthy Masonic veteran. Their lodge room though small is neat, well furnished and profusely illustrated, so to speak, the walls and ceiling being covered with painted emblems of Freemasonry. After the regular business was done we enjoyed a conversational review of many interesting points of ritual and history.

9th December. Cataraqui Lodge, No. 92, Kingston; Upwards of fifty were present, including the W. M.'s of the Ancient St. John's, No. 3, and Minden, No. 252, and six P. M.'s. Twice in the evening breezy debates, unusually lively for a Masonic lodge, arose, once about black ballots, and again about Grand Lodge benevolence. These, and the election of officers, relieved me of the time and opportunity to do much officially, but the lodge is very evidently thriving.

26th December. Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 146, Newburgh: I installed W. Bro. D. A. Nesbit, B. A., W. M., and the other officers.

28th December. The Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston, at noon: I installed W. Bro. Robt. D. Baker, W. M., and the other officers. In the evening, after assisting R. W. Bro. Hendry to install the officers of Cataraqui Lodge, No. 92, I was the highly gratified guest of the Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, at its annual banquet at the British American Hotel.

12th Jan., 1897. Leeds Lodge, No. 201, Gananoque; forty-five were present in the comfortable lodge-room. The brethren although nearly all total strangers to me, treated your representative like a long lost brother. Very passable work was performed in conferring the second degree upon two brethren. The relations that obtain between the W. M. and the lodge, are admirable. Leeds Lodge, No. 201, I was informed, was almost at the point of surrendering its warrant a few years since; but I rejoice to say that its fortunes have now very greatly improved. At present it appears to be a well attended, ably officered, prosperous lodge, in very admirable quarters.

1st February. W. Bros. Minnes, MacNee and Burns, P.M.'s of the Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston, went with me to Elysian Lodge, No. 212, Garden Island. After passing perils none the less deadly because at the time unknown,—for none of us being sure of the way, we crossed (so we were told by the islanders) over deep waters on very thin ice,—we were received with a fraternal welcome. We found a small but select lodge. A few years ago there was suggested the closing of this lodge; but the desire of the Isle is to preserve it, and properly, as it is an incentive to uprightness in their boys, that when they become men, and leave for the mainland, they may take with them the benefit of the brotherhood. W. Bro. Kennedy, W. M., is a good craftsman, and his wardens and officers support him properly. W. Bro. Raymond keeps the secretary's books beautifully. Their minute-book is the one with which they began in 1869. As all but about half a dozen members are sea-faring men, the lodge meets only in the winter season. After labor they spread for us a remarkably fine repast; the utmost good fellowship prevailed.

12th March. Visited Union Lodge, No. 9, Napanee, a second time. Through some oversight insufficient notice had been given, and only twelve members of the lodge besides the tyler were present. The W. M. was aided and abetted by eight P. M.'s, notwithstanding which the work was done tolerably well. R. W. Bro. Warner, P. D. D. M., was with us. Bro. George, Elysian Lodge, No. 212, Garden Island, introduced Bro. D. J. Garbutt, a member formerly of the defunct so-called Ontario Grand Lodge. By the command of the M. W. the G. M., I performed in open lodge the ceremony of healing Bro. Garbutt. Union Lodge, No. 9, was flourishing admirably a few years ago; but of late it seems to be passing through a time of ebb-tide—at least in attendance.

16th March. Simpson Lodge, No. 157, Newboro', where I met R. W. Bro. Dargavel, P. D. D. G. M., and fifteen other brethren. The second degree was conferred. W. Bro. Levi S. Lewis, W. M., was evidently unwell, and he did not seem to acquit himself to his own satisfaction. They have a pretty lodge-room. Over the West one cannot but read, "*Audi Vide Tace*," which were a motto befitting a sensible man in his life outside, not less than within a Masonic lodge. This lodge seems to have been endeared to the Newboro' brethren by the last September swarming of Westport. To start a new lodge at Westport was much better than to remove thither Simpson Lodge, warrant and all.

4th June. To Westport Lodge, instituted under dispensation 10th September, 1896. Thirty brethren were there, about

half of whom were visitors, including R. W. Bros. Rev. L. A. Betts, P. G. Chap., and J. A. Dargavel, P. D. D. G. M., and W. Bro. Lewis, W. M., Simpson Lodge, No. 157. Two well-prepared candidates were passed in a manner which would have done credit to many older lodges. This young lodge seems possessed of great vigor and bright prospects.

Dispensations to attend Divine Service, clothed in Masonic regalia, were issued by me as follows: For Sunday, 27th December, 1896, to Lorne Lodge, No. 404, Tamworth; Prince Arthur Lodge, No. 228, Odessa, and The Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston; for Sunday, 20th June, 1897, to Lorne Lodge, Tamworth, and Leeds Lodge, No. 201, Gananoque.

The Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston, reported to me the death of V. W. Bro. John Sutherland, for the last twenty years Secretary of that lodge; obit 22nd March, 1897, aged 87 years.

Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 146, Newburgh, lost its youngest member, and the one who within its portals was most recently brought to behold the light, by the accidental drowning on the 24th of May, 1897, of Bro. Thos. Alex. Grange, B. A., aged 22 years.

As detailed in the foregoing report all the lodges in this district have been visited, some of them twice, during the year. Everywhere throughout the district Freemasonry seems to be cherished within the lodges and venerated without.

At the risk of seeming unduly venturesome I have a suggestion to make: Some lodges defray the expenses of the D. D. G. M.'s visit promptly and adequately; others only after delay, and I was not always able to feel sure that the pittance was paid without a grudge. Also whisperings reached me of impositions of former days, in the way of livery bills, etc., which the lodges thought outrageous. These things are not only humiliating to the D. D. G. M., but they militate against him performing his duties both to the local lodge and to Grand Lodge with a perfectly impartial and disinterested fidelity. Were the wealthy D. D. G. M.'s uniformly to decline reimbursement of their expenses it would soon preclude every poorer brother, however well versed in the craft, from accepting the office. Imagine school inspectors compelled to look directly to the local Board of Trustees to defray their expenses. It is my opinion that the Grand Lodge ought to pay, together with a fixed rate of mileage, a stated fee for every lodge inspected by the D. D. G. M.—so much for each first visit and a less fee for each second visit. The institution of some such plan would be more appreciated, I think, by the local lodges, and would cost

Grand Lodge less than the contemplated reduction of the half yearly per capita dues.

To my successor it will not be in my power to hand on the regalia of this district literally *untarnished*, for it has been worn out in the service of the lodges, and they ought soon to purchase anew.

All the brethren in all the lodges in the north, east, south and west of Frontenac District, No. 14, I wish to thank most heartily for their uniform brotherly kindness to me throughout the year.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

GEO. ANSON AYLSWORTH, D. D. G. M.,
Frontenac District, No. 14.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Frontenac District, No. 14, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodges.	NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Mem- bership.		Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.		Decrease during year.		Degree's conf'd		Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet- ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief.	No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all Arrears.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can. W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
			Increased during year.	Decreased during year.		E. A.	F. C.	M. M.	Regular.	Emergency.	Total.																	
3	The A. St. J.	Kingston	143	...	...	7	7	8	1	...	2	4	...	2	13	9	22	35	\$35 00	10	\$19 00	Dec., '96	Satisf'ry	Good.	Yes	\$ of 1700
9	Union	Napanee	80	7	...	1	1	1	...	...	5	9	...	...	11	1	12	20	120 00	30	250 00	June, '97	Good.	Yes	Jointly	Yes \$700 00
92	Cataraqui.	Kingston	114	7	...	7	11	9	...	5	9	...	...	...	12	7	19	27	95 00	15	165 00	Dec., '96	Very good	Yes	Jointly	Yes
109	Albion	Harrowsmith	49	4	...	4	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	15	12	12 00	8	66 00	Dec., '96	Good.	Fair.	Yes	600 00
119	Maple Leaf	Bath	25	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	10	1	11	11	25 00	5	8 00	Dec., '96	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	150 00
116	Pr. of Wales	Newburgh	43	2	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	1	10	11	12	73 00	6	17 00	June, '97	Impr'ing	Fair.	Yes	1500 00	
157	Simpson.	Newboro'	57	3	...	3	2	5	...	8	...	...	...	...	14	14	14	25	10 00	24	66 00	June, '96	A-1.	Good.	Yes	500 00
201	Leeds.	Gananoque	91	8	...	7	6	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	12	4	16	36	25 00	27	112 25	Dec., '96	Good.	Fair.	Yes	600 00
212	Elysian	Garden Island	33	1	...	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	4	4	4	11	...	11	38 25	June, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	...
228	P. Arthur	Odessa	35	5	...	5	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	1	13	15	3 00	...	8 00	...	Good.	Good.	Yes	Jointly
253	Minden	Kingston	73	6	...	5	5	5	3	...	2	...	...	...	11	1	12	15	10 00	20	119 00	June, '97	Good.	A-1.	Yes	Jointly
299	Victoria	Centreville	40	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	8	8	...	8	...	20	80 00	June, '96	Good.	Fair.	Yes	150 00
401	Lorne	Tamworth	35	3	...	2	2	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	12	3	15	12	...	9	58 25	June, '97	Fair.	Good.	Yes	...
	* Westport.	Westport	25	6	...	9	9	5	3	10	2	12	15	\$86 91	Good.	Good.	Yes	...	

* Under dispensation, 10th September, 1896.

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, No. 15.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

It is with pleasure that I submit for your consideration my report upon the condition of Masonry in the fifteenth Masonic district for the year ending the 24th day of June, 1897.

My first official act was the appointment W. Bro. G. H. S. Kennedy, I. P. M., of Excelsior Lodge, No. 142, G. R. C., Morrisburgh, as District Secretary, to whom I have been greatly indebted for his efficient services whilst attending the duties of his office. I was accompanied by the W. Bro. on all my visits throughout the district. He has aided me with cheerfulness and zeal, is a most competent worker, and deserves some recognition for the great amount of work he has done so efficiently during the past year.

The brethren of St. Lawrence District, No. 15, having done me the honor of electing me to the office of District Deputy Grand Master at the last annual communication of Grand Lodge, held at the City of Belleville last July, I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks for the trust reposed in me and for the kind and cordial manner in which I was received by the various lodges in the district.

I have visited officially all the lodges in the district, and in every instance I have been received with the greatest respect and courtesy. I am happy to report that, with but few exceptions, Masonry is in a flourishing condition throughout this portion of the Grand Jurisdiction.

I would recommend a more frequent interchange of fraternal visits between the different lodges as it would be productive of much good in having the work done in a uniform manner, and I have endeavored to encourage them in every way possible.

Only four deaths have been reported to me, viz. : W. Bro. F. A. Nunn, W. M. of Central Lodge, No. 110, G. R. C., Prescott ; Bro. Richard Loucks of Farran's Point Lodge, No. 256, G. R. C. ; and Bro. Ira C. Warner of Excelsior Lodge, No. 142, G. R. C., Morrisburgh. Bro. Warner served as tyler continuously for twenty-five years and retained the position

until the time of his death. Also Bro S. Moag of St. Francis Lodge, No. 24, G. R. C., Smith's Falls, who had served his thirty-eight years as secretary.

VISITATIONS.

Sussex Lodge, No. 5, Brockville: I visited this lodge at a regular held on the 17th of May, and it was the largest meeting I had in the district, a large proportion being visitors. Among those present there were several past Grand Lodge officers, viz.: R. W. Bro. L. A. Betts, P. G. C., R. W. R. Bro. J. Menish, P. D. D. G. M., and R. W. Bro. J. H. Jackson, P. D. D. G. M. The lodge was opened and closed in the several degrees, and the first exemplified. With its financial standing, the lodge room and its appointments, and the manner of performing the work, I have no hesitation in designating it one of the best in the district.

True Britons' Lodge, No. 14, Perth: This lodge it was my intention to visit officially on the 19th of March and the district secretary gave due and timely notice thereof, but owing to a misunderstanding in the postal department there the secretary failed to receive the same. Therefore, on my arrival I was much disappointed. However, I officially visited this lodge at an emergent meeting, held on the 8th of April, when there were present forty, among whom were a number of visitors. The lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees and the second conferred in a creditable manner. The lodge room had been recently renovated and now presents a neat and tidy appearance. The books are well and properly kept and show a good balance to the credit of the lodge.

St. Francis Lodge, No. 24, Smith's Falls: At an emergent meeting, held March 18th, I visited this lodge. I was met at the station by R. W. Bro. J. A. Houston, P. D. D. G. M., and the W. M., W. M., W. Bro. Wm. Hyndman, who extended a most cordial welcome. There were thirty-eight in attendance, including some visitors from sister lodges. The books are in excellent condition and the lodge room well furnished. The third degree was conferred most efficiently. The members appear to be very enthusiastic and take an active interest in all matters concerning the lodge. This state of affairs, doubtless, is largely due to the untiring efforts of its present Secretary, R. W. Bro. J. A. Houston, P. D. D. G. M.

Mount Zion Lodge, No. 28, Kemptville: Visited April 7th at an emergent meeting. There were in attendance twenty-four, which number included a few visitors. I had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with R. W. Bros. O. Bascom and J. A. Houston, my two immediate predecessors in office.

The books are well kept, and the lodge is in a fair condition. It was opened and closed in each degree, and the first conferred in a fair manner.

Merrickville Lodge, No. 55, Merrickville : At an emergent meeting held on the 17th day of March, I visited this lodge, there being eleven present. The books and lodge-room are in good condition. The work of the evening was opening and closing in the several degrees, and exemplifying the first. The W. M. has a pretty good knowledge of the proper manner of performing the work, but some of the other officers appear to not take that interest and give him that support which is necessary to make the lodge more perfect.

St James' Lodge, No. 74, Bethel : This lodge I visited on the 11th May, at an emergent meeting, and was accompanied from Brockville by V. W. Bro. Geo. Gale and Bro. Chas. H. Fitzsimmons, S. W., of Salem Lodge, No. 368. There were nineteen members and twelve visitors in attendance. The lodge-room presents a neat and comfortable appearance, and it is the intention of the members to further improve its appointments. The books are in fair condition. The lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees, and the first degree exemplified in a fair manner. It would not be amiss to state that this lodge is what might be termed a Masonic museum on account of the many curious and ancient relics in its possession.

Rising Sun Lodge, No. 85, Athens : On April 22nd, at an emergent meeting, I paid an official visit to this lodge. Seventy-eight were present, R. W. Bro. L. A. Betts being included in the number. The books are fair, and the lodge-room and its appointments are excellent. The opening and closing ceremonies and the exemplification of the first degree constituted the work of the evening, which was fairly well performed.

Central Lodge, No. 110, Prescott : I visited this lodge at a regular meeting on the 6th day of April. The attendance was very good, thirty-eight being present, including Bro. W. F. W. Carstairs, of Friendly Brothers Lodge, No. 143, who accompanied me. The lodge room is large and spacious and well furnished. The secretary keeps the books in a creditable and excellent mannner. The lodge was opened and closed in each degree and the first conferred in a way that reflected credit on the W. M. and other officers.

Cornwall Lodge, No. 125, Cornwall : At a regular meeting, held on the 4th of May, I visited this lodge, at which there was an attendance of forty-three, including a number of visitors. The lodge room is a most suitable one and well furnished. The books are in first-class shape. The first and third degrees were conferred in a creditable manner.

Excelsior Lodge, No. 142, Morrisburg : This lodge I visited officially on the 15th of January and again on the 12th of March. On the former occasion, twenty-seven were present, among whom was R. W. Bro. S. B. Fell, P. D. D. G. M., and a number of brethren from Friendly Brothers' Lodge, No. 143. It is one of the best equipped lodges in the district, and the books are well and neatly kept. The third degree was conferred, and the officers performed their work in a manner that reflected credit on the lodge.

Friendly Brothers Lodge, No. 143, Iroquois : I paid an official visit to this lodge on the 27th day of December, 1896, when I installed the officers for the ensuing year, and again on the 12th of May, 1897, accompanied by the district secretary, W. Bro. G. H. S. Kennedy. There was good attendance on both occasions. The lodge has been removed to new and much improved quarters and the furnishings and appointments show that the members are enthusiastic, energetic and determined to make it one of the first in the district. It has an efficient and active secretary who performs his duties in a highly creditable manner. On my second visit the lodge was opened and closed in each degree and the first exemplified in a manner that compares favorably with any in the district.

Lancaster Lodge, No. 207, Lancaster : At an emergent of this lodge I paid an official visit on the 11th of March. There were present thirty, a goodly number of whom were from a sister lodge across the border line, situated at Fort Covington, N. Y. During the last year this lodge has taken up new quarters and have greatly improved the appearance of the lodge room. There seems to be an increased activity and interest among the brethren and I bespeak a bright future. The books are neatly kept but there is room for improvement. The lodge was opened and closed in the several degrees, and the first conferred, the work being done very well.

Macoy Lodge, No. 242, Mallorytown : This lodge was visited April 9th, at an emergent meeting at which twelve were in attendance. Considering the difficulties under which this lodge is laboring, the room is well furnished. The books are in fair shape. Owing to scarcity of applicants and non-interest of some of the older members, the lodge is not prospering as it should. The present officers, notwithstanding, are enthusiastic, but have not a proper knowledge of the work and seem eager to obtain the same. For their information the district secretary and myself exemplified the first degree and instructed them in the secret work. I look forward to an improvement in the near future.

Farran's Point Lodge, No. 257, Farran's Point : I visited this

lodge on the 5th of May at an emergent meeting. There were thirteen members and three visitors present. The lodge room is neat and cosy and the books are well kept. The lodge was opened and closed in the several degrees in a fairly creditable manner. Owing to the lateness of the hour in opening no degree was exemplified.

Chesterville Lodge, No. 320, Chesterville: I visited this lodge on the 15th of March, when there were thirty in attendance, among whom was V. W. Bro. J. G. Gillespie, P. G. S. The lodge room is in fair condition, and the books are well kept by an enthusiastic and painstaking secretary. The W. M. was absent, but W. Bro. W. B. Lawson filled the chair and opened and closed the lodge in the three degrees and conferred the first on two candidates in a fair manner.

Salem Lodge, No. 368, Brockville: At a regular meeting, held on the 10th of May, I visited this lodge, there being fifty-five present, among whom was R. W. Bro. L. A. Betts, P. G. C. The lodge room is a most suitable and commodious one and artistically furnished; the books are neatly and correctly kept, and this lodge I consider among the foremost under my charge. The exemplification of the third degree was well and creditably performed.

Harmony Lodge, No. 370, Delta: This lodge was visited at an emergent meeting held on the 21st day of April. W. Bro. Phelps, the Secretary, met me on the arrival of the train and extended a cordial welcome on behalf of the lodge. There were twenty-seven present. The lodge room, if not the best, at least ranks among the finest in the district. The books are kept in a very neat and tasty manner, but not quite the proper form. The work of the evening was opening and closing the three degrees and conferring the first, which was passably well performed.

Henderson Lodge, No. 383, Winchester: Visited March 16th, at an emergent meeting, twenty being present, including a number of visitors. The lodge-room is sufficiently large but very poorly furnished. The regalia is not in accordance with regulations and I would suggest a change being made in this respect. The books are in fair condition. On account of many of the officers being absent and the positions being filled by P. M.'s and others, the third degree was poorly exemplified. Possibly the work would have been better performed had the regular officers been in attendance, I would earnestly recommend them to hold frequent practices until such time as they become better acquainted with the work.

Lansdowne Lodge, No. 387, Lansdowne: This lodge was visited by me on the 30th of March, at an emergent meeting.

Including a few visitors, twelve were in attendance, the W. M. and a number of officers being absent. The lodge-room was a very poor and unsuitable one, but it was the intention then to remove to much better and befitting quarters, and I have since been informed such has been done. A large proportion of the minute book and tyler's register were written with pencil, but I was assured that pen and ink would be used in future. At the time of my visitation the officers had not been installed and I instructed them to have the same performed as soon as possible. Doubtless the reason for this neglect is the fact that very frequently a quorum could not be secured, leading one to suppose that the great majority of the members take very little interest in the lodge affairs. The chair was occupied by the District Secretary, W. Bro. G. H. S. Kennedy, who opened and closed the lodge in each degree and instructed those present in all the secret work. Ere long, I hope to see it in much better condition.

Crystal Fountain, No. 389, North Augusta : At an emergent meeting of this lodge, held on the 23rd of April, twenty members and six visitors were present. The lodge-room is in good condition and fairly well furnished. The building is owned by the lodge and it is the intention to make extensive improvements. The books are fairly well kept, but the dues, notwithstanding the recommendations of previous D. D. G. M.'s, remain at \$1.50 per annum. They should be, at least, \$2.50 and I so advised, the W. M. concurring. The third degree was conferred in a fair manner. The W. M. is well versed in the work and is enthusiastic and untiring in his endeavors to bring this lodge to a proper standard, but he does not receive that assistance and support from the officers and members to which he is so justly entitled. It has good material and there is no reason why with a little manifestation of interest on the part of the members this lodge could not be made one of the best in the district.

Lyn Lodge, No. 416, Lyn. On the 31st of March, at an emergent meeting, I officially visited this lodge. There were fifteen present. The lodge room is comfortably and neatly equipped, and the books are kept in a very tasty and correct manner. The lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees and the first exemplified in a most creditable manner. The members deserve credit for the interest and enthusiasm displayed in Masonic matters.

Maxville Lodge, No. 418, Maxville : I visited this lodge at a regular meeting on the 9th day of March and was met at the station by V. W. Bro. Samuel Henry and the S. W., Bro. Purvis, who accorded me a hearty welcome. There were in at-

tendance twenty-five, among whom were V. W. Bro. Samuel Henry and Bro. J. M. Young, of Excelsior Lodge, No. 142, the latter accompanying me from Morrisburgh. The lodge room is only fairly good, but, doubtless, will be improved before long. The books are not quite up to the standard and the minute book is of improper form. I suggested procuring another. The lodge was opened and closed in each degree and the first was exemplified passably.

Alexandria, U. D., Alexandria: At an emergent meeting, held on the 10th of March, I visited this lodge. W. Bro. E. H. Tiffany and Bro. McGregor met me at the station and welcomed me. There were present thirty-one including a number of visitors. The lodge room is not suitable, but in all probability, should a warrant be granted, new quarters will be provided compatible with the dignity of Masonry. While the books do not attain a high standard, still I believe them to be quite passable for all intents and purposes. The opening and closing of the several degrees and the exemplification of the first were creditably performed. I heartily recommend that a warrant be granted.

CONCLUSION.

I append herewith a tabulated statement of the work accomplished by the most of the lodges during the past year, but I am sorry to record that there are eight which have not furnished me with the necessary returns, therefore, I am unable to provide a full and complete report.

In conclusion, I again desire to thank brethren for the honor they have conferred upon me and to wish them every success.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

D. A. MACDONELL, D. D. G. M.,
St. Lawrence District, No. 15.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in St. Lawrence District, No. 15, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

NAME OF LODGE.	LOCATION.	Mem- bership.		Degree's conf'r'd			Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet- ings held.			Average attendance of members.	Amount paid for relief	No of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
		Total No. of all Mem.	Increase during year.	Decrease during year.	E. A.	F. C.	M. M.					Regular.	Emergency.	Total.									
5 Sussex	Brockville	92	7	7	7	8	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	21	20 00	21	183 75	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	\$700 00
14 True Brit's	Perth	90	2	2	4	4	4	1	1	1	2	14	4	18	28	101 84	21	13 50	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
24 St. Francis	Smith's Falls	90	2	2	4	4	4	1	1	1	2	14	4	18	28	101 84	21	13 50	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
28 Mt. Zion	Kemptville	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	11	10	.....	3	18 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	None.
55 Merrickville	Merrickville	52	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	13	1	14	12	.....	4	15 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Fair.	Yes	600 00
74 St. James	Bethel	35	4	2	4	2	1	2	2	1	1	12	2	14	15	30 00	14	67 75	Jan. 1, '97...	Good.	Good.	Yes	400 00
85 Rising Sun	Athens	63	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	12	5	17	18	75 00	17	100 50	Dec. 27, '96.	Fair.	Good.	Yes	750 00
110 Central	Prescott	87	1	9	8	8	4	1	6	3	4	12	5	17	18	75 00	17	100 50	June 21, '97	#850 00	Good.	Yes	750 00
*125 Cornwall	Cornwall	67	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	2	13	18	119 25	26	85 00	June 24, '97	50 00	Good.	Yes	600 00
142 Excelsior	Morrisburg	78	4	3	4	4	5	1	4	1	1	13	3	16	20	25 00	26	139 00	June 24, '97	255 00	Good.	Yes	500 00
143 Friendly B.	Iroquois	67	4	3	4	4	4	1	3	1	1	13	3	16	20	25 00	26	30 00	Mar. 27, '97	Good.	Good.	Yes	250 00
207 Lancaster	Lancaster	39	9	10	7	9	3	2	3	7	14	2	16	14	.....	29 00	8	77 25	July, '96....	Fair.	Good.	Yes	200 00
*242 Macoy	Mallorytown	32	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15 00	.....	Good.	.....	Yes.	.....
*236 Farni's Pt.	Farnen's Point	78	6	8	6	7	5	.....	3	4	1	12	.....	12	22	10 00	20	109 32	Jan. 9, '97...	Good.	Good.	Yes	.....
390 Chesterville	Chesterville	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	15	23	35 00	6	175 00	June 21, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	2000 00
*368 Salam	Brookville .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Good.	.....	.....	.....
370 Harmony	Delta	67	6	.....	6	3	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Good.	.....	.....	.....
*384 Henderson	Winchester	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Good.	.....	.....	.....
*387 Lansdowne	Lansdowne	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Good.	.....	.....	.....
389 Crystal F'n	North Augusta	43	2	.....	2	2	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	10	3	15	.....	10	29 75	June 24, '96	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
416 Lyn	Lyn	31	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	6	6	12	.....	9	118 00	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	200 00
418 Maxville	Maxville	56	10	4	5	3	.....	.....	4	10	.....	12	1	13	13	2 50	11	4 35	Dec. 27, '96.	Good.	Good.	Yes	None.
*404 Alexandria	Alexandria	57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Good.	.....	.....	.....

NOTE.—The lodges before which is placed an asterisk (*) are those which have not forwarded their reports, and the information furnished is such as was gathered at the time they were officially visited.

OTTAWA DISTRICT, NO. 16.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN:

I have the honor to submit the following report on the condition of Masonry in the Ottawa District for your consideration.

PROSPERITY.

The year 1896-97 has been marked by a fair degree of prosperity in which nearly all the lodges have participated. Harmony reigns supreme, and the brethren are attached to our time-honored craft, enthusiastic, and for the most part zealous for the success of their own lodge, and gladly listening to accounts of the progress of sister lodges. With this spirit greater advancement may be confidently looked for in succeeding years.

PAST MASTERS.

One encouraging fact has been pressed upon my observation more than once—the regular attendance of the Past Masters at the communications of their respective lodges and the respect shewn them by the younger members. Personally I am grateful for the countenance they gave me in the prosecution of my work. The names of all are not entered in the accounts of visits made, yet the kindness and sympathy displayed have not been forgotten.

PAST MASTERS' NIGHTS.

Several lodges gave what were styled Past Masters' nights, when the chairs were taken and the work exemplified by Past Masters. The meetings proved to be most interesting, were attended by large numbers, and will be of value in keeping Masons who labored assiduously for the craft in former years in touch with their successors.

WORK.

The majority of Wor. Masters in the district are young men who never knew, and consequently have not to unlearn other rituals than that approved by Grand Lodge. There is great

uniformity in the work, especially since the D. D. G. M.'s are giving closer attention to the secret work. Any divergence now noticed is due to nervousness producing lapses in memory. Accuracy and impressiveness mark the conferring of the different degrees in the various lodges. The work of the Masters and Wardens is particularly good; that of the assistants not so good, owing doubtless to little practice and lack of confidence. Music, that great factor, is not always incorporated in the services. Effort should be made by every lodge to have an organ and an organist.

LECTURES.

In most lodges the members have the pleasure of hearing the lectures given in fine style. During my progress, while treated to many impressive lectures, those given by the Junior Wardens of Civil Service, 148, and Plantagenet, 186 (Bros. L. Scott and Dr. Switzer), stand out vividly in my memory as being very fine.

EXAMINATIONS.

With respect to the examinations of the proficiency of candidates for advancement, some carelessness was noted. Prompting was prevalent, and in marked contrast to the accuracy subsequently displayed by the examiner in his own work. My opinion is that the candidates ought to be able to give the obligation taken as well as answer what are styled the usual questions.

LODGE ROOMS.

Brethren at Mattawa, Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior, Carleton Place, have suitable and commodious rooms handsomely furnished. Some have not so good quarters and in this respect are laboring at disadvantage. The Ottawa brethren have made arrangements for a suite—hall, banquet hall, library, parlor, preparation and property rooms, etc., commodious and comfortable, fully in keeping with their need.

INSURANCE.

Many lodges maintain a fair amount of insurance on their effects. In Ottawa the hall committee hold all the property in trust for the seven lodges and the chapter, and keep it well insured. Every lodge should see that the insurance is adequate upon the jewels, furniture, etc., to replace them in case of fire.

FIRES.

Only in Ottawa have we had a fire. The lodge room jointly occupied by the lodges of the city was destroyed in December.

Property was destroyed no money can restore. The valuable library contained books that cannot be replaced. Happily everything was covered by a sum sufficient to start again both lodge and library. Several lodges in addition had a small insurance upon jewels and tools. In our extremity we found friends. The Oddfellows placed an unoccupied hall at our service at a small rental. The brethren of Eddy Lodge, Hull, Quebec R., loaned us an altar, ashlar, etc., so we were enabled to go right on with our own meetings. Most W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson with his handsome and timely gifts—volume of sacred law, box of working tools, and gavels—but above all his charming way of expressing his sympathy in the inscriptions placed upon these essentials, won every heart. Another brother gave a V. O. T. S. L.; still another a sword for the inner guard; while letters conveying sympathy and some offering money came in daily. Our forethought made us confident we could start again, still the sympathy was keenly appreciated.

REGALIA.

The representation at the district meeting in Belleville presented my popular predecessor, Rt. Wor. Bro. Archie Hood, with the regalia used by him. A resolution was also adopted making it a fixture for the future that the retiring D. D. G. M. shall keep the regalia used by him during his tenure of office. This entails but a small expense on the lodges, but to the D. D. G. M. the reminder of his intimate connection with the district will be ever before him. Let others follow the good example set by Ottawa, No. 16.

MASONIC BAND.

With commendable zeal some years ago a few Masons connected with musical companies united together, the outcome of which was a band, still efficiently maintained. Instruments, the property of the fraternity were obtained and the liberality of the craft permits the getting of other instruments as they are needed. The organization as to numbers, proficiency, character, has the respect of the craftsmen who have the assistance at funerals, services, and banquets of a well equipped, competent, and willing band.

DEATHS.

The district lost a prominent and respected Mason by the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. Gavin S. Macfarlane, P. D. D. G. M. He was accorded a Masonic funeral by Prince of Wales Lodge, which was attended by every Master of city and Hull lodges. There must have been over four hundred Masons in the pro-

cession, headed by the band discoursing suitable music, from the house to the station. Perhaps more than two hundred accompanied the remains from Ottawa to Wakefield, twenty miles up the Gatineau valley by special train. Here in a beautiful spot amid appropriate and solemn Masonic services conducted by the Master of his lodge, Wor. Bro. Borthwick, Mayor of Ottawa, the body of our departed Bro. then was laid at rest. Wor. Bro. the Rev. Canon Pettit, a member of Goodwood Lodge was also summoned to the Grand Lodge above. The following Master Masons have left vacant places, but their memories are treasured by mourning brethren : A. Lawrence, Mattawa, 405 ; Leonard Winters, Prince of Wales, 371 ; David McFarlane and A. J. Butler, Madawaska, 196 ; John Lowery, James Mather, and Thos. J. Warwicker, Chaudiere Lodge, 264.

QUEBEC BRETHREN.

The officers and members of Eddy Lodge, Quebec Register, have invited me to visit their lodge to meet the R. Wor. the D. D. G. M. of Ottawa District, Quebec, on his official visit, to a banquet given at the installation of officers, and to attend divine service. It was impossible to suit arrangements to reach the banquet, but the other invitations were accepted, and the Masons of that jurisdiction paid the representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada every attention. The D. D. G. M., Rt. Wor. Bro. Howard, visited us on several occasions, and was paid that courtesy his ability and rank deserved. The kindness and attention of the D. D. G. M., and the Masons of his district when we passed into it to the burial of Rt. Wor. Bro. Macfarlane, was much appreciated by all.

BY-LAWS.

The M. W. the Grand Master approved of changes or amendments to the by-laws of Dalhousie Lodge, No. 52 ; The Builders', No. 177 ; Fidelity, No. 231.

DISPENSATIONS.

The M. W. the Grand Master issued his dispensation to Mississippi Lodge, No. 147, to instal their officers on the 22nd January. The D. D. G. M. issued dispensations to attend divine service clothed in regalia to these lodges : Mississippi Lodge, No. 147 ; St. John's, No. 63 ; Renfrew, No. 122 ; Pembroke, No. 128 ; Plantagenet, No. 186 ; Madawaska, No. 196 ; Bonnechere, No. 433.

INSTALLATIONS.

On the 28th December the officers of these lodges were installed : Chaudiere, No. 264 ; Prince of Wales, No. 371 ;

Doric, No. 58 ; Civil Service, No. 148, in which Rt. Wor. Bro Jno. Walsh assisted me ; St. John's Lodge, No. 63, Carleton Place, where the M. W. the I. P. G. M., Bro. W. R. White, aided me. On the 22nd January the officers of Mississippi Lodge, No. 147, were installed. At Ottawa on the 22nd June officers of Fidelity Lodge, No. 231, and on the 24th June those of Dalhousie Lodge, No. 52, were respectively installed. All of these services were very well attended, the new officers in every instance receiving the kindest reception from the members.

VISITS.

All the lodges in the district but one have been visited during the year, many of them frequently. During these visits I have met at various times R. W. Bros. Rea, Stephens, Taylor, Butterworth, Burritt, Archie Hood, Abbot Johnson, Dr. Church, Dr. Cranston, David Barr, P. D. D. G. M.'s. Grand Lodge will be pleased to hear of their active connection with their mother lodges and of the respect and affection entertained for them by their brethren. These visits were very enjoyable to me and my remarks were kindly received.

Civil Service Lodge, No. 148, gave a Past Master's night, to which the members were invited, September 14, to meet the new D. D. G. M. There was a large attendance. All the chairs were occupied by Past Masters, the Worshipful Master, Dr. Harris, acting as Inner Guard. R. W. Bro. John Walsh, the W. M. of the lodge over twenty years ago, with R. W. Bro. Mamquy as S. W. and W. Bro. Boarden as J. W., assisted by previous Worshipful Masters, exemplified the work of the sublime degree in a beautiful and impressive service to which the lodge choir greatly contributed. A banquet followed conducted as a lodge function where all were welcome, a delightful occasion.

In October Dalhousie Lodge, No. 52, invited the brethren to visit a regular communication at which I was presented with an address (this is my own lodge) and entertained at a banquet. There were many in attendance. This old and prosperous lodge is doing good work under its genial Master, W. Bro. Miles Birkett, who has the aid and encouragement of a fine staff of officers. Plenty of work nicely done has been the rule this year. W. Bro. Scott is filling his twenty-second term as secretary.

On November 10 Civil Service Lodge, No. 148, was visited. W. Bro. Dr. Harris initiated a candidate, Capt. Winter, who served in the Nile contingent. The work of the Master and the officers all was almost faultless. The entertainment that followed was of the usual pleasant and enjoyable kind, a feature of this prosperous lodge.

On the 28th December St. John's Lodge, No 63, Carleton Place, was visited and the officers installed. They promised well and up to date are fulfilling the promise thoroughly. The Most Wor. Bro. W. R. White was present, assisted in the ceremony of installation and generally was the life of the company at the elaborate banquet which followed. The lodge was crowded with members and visitors. This meeting is the great event of the year in Carleton Place, and right well they celebrate it. Rt. Wor. Bro. Houston, P. D. D. G. M. of St. Lawrence District, No. 15, and Wor. Bro. Dr. Preston were present, contributing much to the pleasure of all. Wor. Bros. Martin and H. P. Macdonell accompanied us from Ottawa on this visit.

The officers of Mississippi Lodge, No. 147, Almonte, were installed on the 22nd January. Here were present Wor. Bros. Coulter, McEwen, Munro and Pollock, Past Masters. The new W. M. is the son of Wor. Bro. Pollock, the efficient Secretary. It was my intention to have paid this body another visit, but time prevented. Sure information reached me, however, that their progress under the new management is steady and promising. The members hospitably entertained the D. D. G. M. and made his visit most pleasant.

Renfrew Lodge, No. 122, was visited March 1st. A cordial reception was accorded me by a large number of Masons. This is the home of Rt. Wor. Bro. Barr, P. D. D. G. M., and of many worthy Past Masters. The Wor. Master, W. Bro. Cleary, conferred the fellow craft degree in finished style. His assistants did their parts admirably, deserving the encomium paid them by all. A pleasant hour was spent socially, at which refreshments were served. This is a strong lodge, possessing a fine room and evidently taking pride in fitting it not alone comfortably but handsomely. They deserve their prosperity.

The Wor. Master of Fidelity Lodge invited me to attend at the March meeting and present Past Master's jewels to Past Masters Wilson and Granger. The ceremony was witnessed by many members and visitors, and the recipients were frequently applauded in their replies, showing the feeling entertained by the Masons present for these worthy brethren. Seldom has it been my fortune to take part in so happy an event. To see merit rewarded is always calculated to produce happiness. A little banquet ensued and an agreeable event was ended.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 231, received an official visit at the regular April meeting, when the W. M. conferred the E. A. and F. C. degrees on candidates. The work was creditably performed. Most of the officers were present, doing their parts in the ceremony well. I have been a frequent visitor during the year, and have noticed the deep earnestness displayed by

Wor. Bro. Burgess, an enthusiastic Mason, under whom the lodge grew steadily. Under their new management I predict continued prosperity.

Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 371, gave me a most cordial welcome in April. In fact, during the rule of Wor. Bro. Borthwick I was a regular visitor, and when Wor. Bro. Mulligan succeeded my visits were just as regular. The initiation was performed in good style. The Master and his officers do very good work, and are able to confer all the degrees (I have witnessed this) accurately and impressively. At this meeting it was my good fortune to meet Rt. Wor. Bro. John Satchell, P. G., Registrar. We were hospitably entertained at the conclusion of the work by the members.

At a regular communication of Doric Lodge, No. 58, Past Masters occupied the different chairs, and exemplified the work of the third degree in a most proper manner. Past Master S. A. Luke is recognized in Ottawa as one of the most efficient workers in the craft. In this ceremony he fulfilled all expectations, having with him fine ritualists in every position. The I. P. M., Wor. Bro. Martin, ruled his lodge wisely, and has been followed by the present Master, Wor. Bro. Abbott, a good worker, who with admirable and enthusiastic help in the different chairs will maintain the reputation worthily held by his predecessors.

Chaudiere Lodge, No. 264, was visited officially April 23, and W. Bro. Fair and the members present made me very welcome. The Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred in a perfect manner, all doing their respective parts in good style. Having been a constant attendant at the meetings I have seen every degree conferred, not once, but often, as they have enjoyed a prosperous season. The officers have had work at every meeting, and the practice has kept them up to the present high mark. There was a serious difficulty in the lodge (not yet quite removed) and my admiration has been added to by the wisdom and moderation of the W. M. and his brethren in overcoming and removing it. They will yet have cause to rejoice that what might have been a fruitful source of annoyance and grief has been kindly and judiciously dealt with.

It was my good fortune to be present on May the 14th to witness the election of officers for the ensuing year in The Builders' Lodge, No. 177. The unanimity that marked this important work argues well for the continued prosperity of the enterprising and flourishing lodge. The W. M. Rt. Wor. Bro. William Rea, P. D. D. G. M., has had a prosperous year. Being a constant visitor I have seen the work of the different degrees frequently performed by the W. M. and his accomplished staff

in a perfect manner. This is the home of our most prominent city Masons. A visit always repays one and he is sure of a sincere welcome.

On the 10th June Evergreen Lodge, No. 209, Lanark, was visited. The brethren gave me a hearty reception. There were about sixteen members present. It was the appointed night for the election of officers. My impression is that good men were selected, and though they have difficulties to contend with that will tax them to the utmost, if any one can they ought to put lodge affairs on a better footing. Many questions were asked, which were answered to the best of my ability, and I feel my visit will have a good result. These dear brethren have my hearty sympathy and best wishes for their prosperity this new year. Among those present were Wor. Bros. Wilson and McLaren, Past Masters, enjoying in a high degree the good will of the brethren. We spent a delightful time at a banquet at Bro. Dobbie's hotel.

At Pembroke, June 5th, occurred the great event of the year. The brethren received the M. W. the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Wm. Gibson, M. P., to whom Rt. Wor. Bro. J. H. Burritt read an address of welcome, to which the Grand Master made a happy reply. Then the Grand Master presented a testimonial and serviette on behalf of Grand Lodge to Most Wor. Bro. W. R. White. The reply was one of the brightest speeches I have ever heard on such an occasion. The Pembroke brethren are to be congratulated on the successful issue of a memorable meeting. The Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. Leach, performed an initiation, ably assisted by his officers, in this large company in a perfect manner, deserving the congratulations bestowed on him. There were present the two surviving charter members, Wro. Bro. Wright and the Sheriff, Bro. Moffet, Rt. Wor. Bro. Flint, M. P., Nova Scotia, Bro. Tolmie, M. P., and a host of eminent brethren assembled to do honor to the Immediate Past and the Present Grand Masters. The brethren entertained the visiting and other members in magnificent style.

St. John's Lodge, No. 63, Carleton, received a second visit on the 9th of June. The brethren have had very little work owing to an unhappy division, not noisy, but deep. The breach is now happily closed to the manifest joy of all. Numerically and financially strong, with Wor. Bro. Morgan, W. M., and Bro. Dr. McIntosh, S. W., and Bro. Dr. Gorrell, J. W., with good assistants, the lodge should overtake and surpass any previous record.

An official visit was paid to Madawaska Lodge, No. 196, on the 16th June. Needless to say, any lodge of which Rt. Wor.

Bro. Archie Hood is a member, will give a D. D. G. M. a good reception. Among others present were Rt. Bro. Dr. Cranston, P. D. D. G. M., well and favorably known as a Mason in this jurisdiction, and Wor. Bro. Stafford, P. M., Mayor of the town. Wor. Bro. Jamieson, W. M., conferred the second degree in a skilful manner. The assistance of his officers was good, contributing to make a good and well-balanced ceremony. Bro. Richman spread a fine repast for the brethren subsequently, at which we passed a delightful time in speeches, songs, etc. Bro. J. W. Grey is the Secretary of this harmonious lodge.

Bonnechere Lodge, No. 433, Eganville, was visited June 25th. The lodge was opened by myself. This lodge has been exceedingly unfortunate. It has three Past Masters and a Wor. Master, or four Past Masters in all. One of these is too busy (not connected except by affiliation) to lose so much time. He is a clergyman, and it no doubt was trying to come often when there would be no meeting at all, or not till after nine. We had a long talk over this, and the brethren promised to amend, and perhaps our Rev. Bro. will again help them. The Wor. Master has been in lodge but once since installation, having removed to Pembroke. The others have left Eganville permanently. In the meantime Wor. Bros. Cleary, W. M., Renfrew Lodge, and Wor. Bros. Hay and Dickson, of the same lodge, have alternately met with them and helped in their work, else they would have been in sad plight. They have two excellent Wardens, Bro. Dr. Sparling and Bro. H. Beatty, J. W., an admirable Secretary, Ed. Weber, and Treasurer, Bro. Lulcff. In a short time affairs will be rectified; of this I am confident. I was royally entertained by the members of Bonnechere Lodge.

Plantagenet Lodge, No. 186, was visited June 25th. The E. A. degree was conferred by Wor. Bro. John Smith in his usual correct style. His S. W., Bro. Kains, and Bro. Dr. Switzer, J. W., and the Deacon, Inner Guard and Tyler did good work. In fact they pride themselves with their drawbacks in doing the work properly and impressively. I never heard the lecture better given than on this visit by the J. W. There were present Wor. Bros. Ryan, Story and Franklin, and three charter members, V. W. Bro. H. Smith and Wor. Bros. Faulkner and W. A. Chamberlain, the latter of whom acts as secretary. Considering that most of the members have a long drive to reach Plantagenet, and that the material for making Masons is fast disappearing before the encroaching raids of another nationality, I was agreeably surprised at meeting so many well-informed, bright and spirited brethren. They know how to entertain also, as we learned on this visit.

I fully expected to visit St. John's Lodge, No. 214, at Van-
kleek Hill. I reached L'Original, but had mistaken the night.
I sent word to the secretary that I would make this up in Sep-
tember next, before my successor begins his work. It had
been my purpose all through to embrace every chance of be-
coming acquainted with every Mason in my district. From
what I know of Wor. Bro. McCulloch, W. M., an old friend,
and yet a very young man, and from what my friend and Bro.
Rt. Wor. Bro. Abbot Johnson, P. D. D. G. M., informed me, I
have every reason to state that the lodge continues to prosper
as in the past.

Goodwood Lodge, No. 159, was reached on 2nd July. Ac-
companied by Wor. Bro. Fair, of Fidelity Lodge, I received a
warm reception from Wor. Bro. Grant, W. M., and members.
The work of the F. C. degree was done in an admirable man-
ner. Wor. Bro. Fair then conferred the second degree upon
a candidate. The J. W., Bro. Craig, promises to be a good
worker. In spite of the long distances the officers have to
come, the Wor. Master rules well. Arrearages have accumu-
lated under former management, and old claims have been
presented; the treasury is empty, but with sixty-three mem-
bers, Wor. Bro. Grant, a keen business man, and Bro. Dr
McCordick, the energetic Secretary, ought easily to remove
every obstacle and place matters on a sound foundation. Not
knowing this thoroughly at the time of my visit I had no con-
versation with the W. M. on the matter. It would be a pity,
a sad spectacle, to see a lodge with associations as Goodwood
has had to fall into difficulty. Here I met Bro. Bennett, an
old charter member, Rev. Bro. Whalley, Wor. Bros. Hugh
Reilly and McCaffrey. Refreshments were served after-
wards.

July 6th was the date of my visit to Mattawa Lodge, No.
405. A hearty welcome met me from an old friend in Dr.
Haenschel, the I. P. M. since June 24th. The day was spent
with this brother, with Wor. Bro. Dunlap, the W. M., and with
Bro. Grasswell, the efficient Secretary. At the meeting the
brethren received me with all the honors in their beautiful
rooms. My address was well received. No thermometer
is able to indicate the heat we were subjected to. There was
a sigh of relief when it was announced no candidate was
in waiting. Winter is the proper time to visit here for the pur-
pose of seeing work done. I am able to state from observation
that everything is regularly done. The acquaintance was made
of Wor. Bros. McCracken, Holloway and other prominent
brethren. A high opinion was formed of my brethren in Mat-
tawa Lodge, who also know how to entertain.

My visits are ended and I have only to express my sincere thanks to the officers and members of the different lodges for the way in which they met me, rendering my duties as Grand Lodge representative easy to perform. It has been pleasant to record my impressions, for in honesty it has been my privilege to say of one and all : they are doing well.

SECRETARIES.

Most of these officers are painstaking and efficient. In several cases they have had bequeathed to them amounts of arrearages seemingly impossible to reduce by lenient measures. The great majority, however, of the eighteen secretaries are punctual, faithful and efficient officers. They have all rendered me every assistance in the discharge of my labors, and I here publicly record my sincere thanks.

CONCLUSION.

I concluding my report I desire to express my thanks to the representatives who in the district meeting unanimously placed me at the head of Ottawa District. A pleasant year has been spent ; many friendships have been formed which will ever be cherished ; enthusiasm has been kindled, and deeper attachment to the craft has been formed by contact with so many able and zealous workers who despite discouragements and difficulties are elevating the tone of Masonry in our district to a height never before reached. My own heart has rejoiced, though often depressed at my inability to assist in surmounting obstacles my brethren have had to meet, at the success achieved. The remembrance of the fraternal kindnesses, of the many hospitalities extended me on every hand, of the kindly reception offered me, will never be effaced while life and memory last.

All is fraternally submitted.

E. D. PARLOW, D. D. G. M.,

Ottawa District, No. 16.

ALGOMA DISTRICT, No. 17.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

I have the honor to submit to you a brief report on the condition of Masonry in Algoma District, No 17

I am pleased to state that I have been able to visit all the lodges in the district, which, though few in number, cover a large territory.

My first official visit was to Keystone Lodge, No. 412, Sault Ste. Marie, on 12th January. I had arranged this visit for 5th January, but being snow-bound in Dakota on my way there, had to postpone it for a week. I was very sorry for this, as I found that quite a number of brethren from Thessalon were on hand to meet me, but could not return for the postponed meeting.

There was, however, a good attendance at the meeting on the 12th, when the second degree was conferred by W. Bro. McFadden in a very creditable manner. He was ably assisted by his wardens and junior officers, and as this was their first work after installation, I felt satisfied that this lodge had made no mistake in the choice of officers for the present year.

The finances of this lodge are in good condition, and the Secretary's duties are admirably discharged by Bro. Way. A very pleasant social evening was spent after the meeting.

Shuniah Lodge, No. 287, Port Arthur, was visited by me on the evening of 2nd March. I was somewhat disappointed at the small attendance, but as a large number of the members are railway men, and away a great deal, I presume large meetings can hardly be expected. The second and third degrees were conferred by W. Bro. Morgan, and the work was well done throughout. There is still a large arrearage of dues in this lodge, but I think they will be considerably reduced this year. The books are well kept by W. Bro. Rodden, the Secretary. After the meeting the brethren adjourned to the ante-rooms, where refreshments were served.

Fort William Lodge, No. 415, Fort William : I visited this lodge on the evening after my visit to Shuniah Lodge, and was pleased to meet again several of the brethren from that lodge. The meeting was well attended, and the first degree conferred by W. Bro. Perry. Some of his officers were unavoidably ab-

sent, and substitutes had to be appointed, but the work was very well done and a credit to W. Bro. Perry. I was very glad to learn that some differences which had existed, and which were referred to in the report of my predecessor, had been happily adjusted and harmony restored. The dues in this lodge are also largely in arrears, but steps are being taken to get them reduced. I examined the books of the Secretary and found them well kept. After the meeting the brethren spent a couple of hours in very pleasant social enjoyment.

Pequonga Lodge, No. 414, Rat Portage : I visited this lodge on 7th April at the regular meeting, when the third degree was conferred by P. D. D. G. M. More, the W. M., in his usual excellent manner. The Wardens and junior officers also did their work very creditably. After the meeting the brethren and visitors were entertained by the lodge and a very pleasant time spent.

Keewatin Lodge, No. 417, Keewatin : I visited this lodge officially on 7th May and found a good attendance, including many of the brethren from Pequonga. W. Bro. Maxwell conferred the third degree very well, and the work on the whole was very creditable. This lodge has been suffering of late years for lack of material, but with the prospects of new industries I think that will be overcome in the near future.

I also had the pleasure of installing the officers in Keewatin Lodge, and also in Pequonga. I have issued dispensations to attend divine service to Pequonga, Keystone and Fort William Lodges, and through me the M. W. the Grand Master, issued a dispensation to Fort William Lodge to instal officers at Shuniah Lodge.

Amendments have been made to by-laws of Keewatin, Keystone and Shuniah Lodges.

The M. W. the Grand Master issued a dispensation for a lodge at Thessalon to be called Dymont Lodge. I have not been able to visit this lodge, but understand it is getting on well with capable officers. They start with a charter membership of seventeen, and I believe have plenty of good material to draw from.

I am pleased to be able to say that Masonry is flourishing, and that harmony prevails in all the lodges of the district.

In conclusion I wish to thank the brethren of the district for the honor conferred in electing me to the office of District Deputy Grand Master, and their unvarying kindness of reception on my official visits.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

R. A. MATHER, D. D. G. M.,
Algoma District, No. 17.

NIPISSING DISTRICT, No. 18.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

As District Deputy Grand Master of Nipissing District, No. 18, I beg to submit herewith my report of the condition of Craft Masonry in this jurisdiction for the past year, and would embrace this opportunity of expressing to the brethren of the district my high appreciation of the honor conferred upon me by placing me in this important position, and at the same time return my sincere thanks for the kind and courteous attention I have invariably received while paying my official visits to the various lodges.

It was my intention, if possible, to visit every lodge twice, but this I found impracticable, as owing to the fact that this district is one of "magnificent distances," and the railroad connections generally being very inconvenient, no lodge can be visited in less than two days, while some require three, and as I was desirous of seeing the way in which the routine business of every lodge was conducted, I called no emergent meetings, but attended on the regular nights. I have visited every lodge once, and some twice, in addition to which I have upon several occasions, at the request of brethren in different parts of the district, been to their respective towns for the purpose of obtaining information upon which to base reports regarding the formation of new lodges, giving advice, exemplifying degrees, etc., the consequence being that I have travelled over two thousand miles, and devoted just one month to the performance of my official duties ; it has, however, been a labor of love, and I have been amply repaid by the way the brethren have appeared to appreciate my feeble efforts.

Owing to the very great depression of the lumber trade upon which this section of the country is almost entirely dependent for its support, the craft is not in as flourishing a condition as one could desire, as in addition to curtailing new material it has had the effect of temporarily driving away a considerable number of the brethren to other places in order to obtain employment, and, as in many cases they have been officers in

their respective lodges it has had somewhat of a demoralizing influence.

It is gratifying, however, to note the interest generally evinced by the various members, and their great desire to know and learn more about the glorious fraternity to which we all belong, the consequence being that I have upon each occasion of my official visit devoted some little time to an explanation of the origin, teachings, symbolism, etc., of the institution, which appeared to be appreciated by the brethren, and I trust it will have the effect of stimulating them to further study and research.

There is one thing I have found it necessary to pay special attention to upon my official visits and that is the routine business, as I find there is a tendency in some lodges to transact their business without regard to the requirements of the constitution, and while done in perfectly good faith it might entail complications under certain circumstances. During my term of office I have recommended the formation of a new lodge at Powassen, for which I have since received the dispensation of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and shall shortly leave for that place for the purpose of instituting it.

This lodge will start under very favorable conditions, there being about twenty charter members, and since the application was made it has been found that there are about twenty more unaffiliated brethren who are anxious to affiliate, in addition to which there is a considerable amount of excellent material offering, and as this is one of the most prosperous sections of the district, I am disposed to believe that this lodge will be crowned with a large amount of success.

Altogether Masonry may be fairly said to be holding its own in the district, and if it is not making the amount of progress we would like to see, it is gratifying to know that it is not in consequence of lack of interest, but solely on account of the hard times.

It is also gratifying to know that peace and harmony prevail throughout the district, that I have been called upon for but very few rulings and decisions, and that they have been accepted in the kindest manner.

I cannot close this report without expressing my high appreciation of the manner in which W. Bro. W. E. Foot, of Parry Sound, discharged the duties of District Secretary.

DEATHS.

This district has just reason to be devoutly thankful that the hand of death has passed so lightly over it, only two having been reported to me, viz., that of Bro. George Thomas, Junior

Warden of Algonquin Lodge, No. 434, Emsdale, who received the honor of a Masonic funeral on 23rd July, 1896; and that of Bro. T. J. Pyburn, of Golden Rule Lodge, No. 409, Gravenhurst, who also was buried by the brethren of his lodge on 11th February, 1897.

DISPENSATIONS.

I have granted the following dispensations, viz., to Algonquin Lodge, No. 434, Emsdale, to attend the funeral of Bro. Thomas, 23rd July, and to the same lodge to attend divine service 27th December, 1896, and 20th June, 1897. To Unity Lodge, No. 376, Huntsville, to attend divine service 27th June, and to Nipissing Lodge, No. 420, North Bay, to attend divine service on 27th June.

VISITATIONS.

Algonquin Lodge, No. 434, Emsdale: I visited this lodge officially on 25th November, upon which occasion I was accompanied by fourteen members from Granite Lodge, Parry Sound. This is a young lodge but in a very healthy condition, a great deal of enthusiasm existing amongst the members. Their lodge room is well furnished and their equipment good in every respect. The secretary's books are beautifully kept and are a model of neatness. The third degree was worked very effectively by the W. M., W. Bro. Kilpatrick (an old Ottawa boy). The Warden's work was equally good, while that of some of the subordinate officers was only fair. Three applications were received that night and the prospects of the lodge are very favorable. After the lodge was closed a banquet was tendered to the visiting brethren and myself, about fifty being present. A most enjoyable time was spent, and altogether the meeting reflected great credit upon the officers and members of the lodge.

Granite Lodge, No. 352, Parry Sound: I visited this lodge for the purpose of installing the officers on 29th December. As a dispensation had been obtained to hold the meeting for this purpose there was no other work done, but as this is a lodge with which I am affiliated and attend regularly I am thoroughly acquainted with their work. The W. M. Wor. Bro. Foot is one of the most enthusiastic Masons I ever knew and is in a position to devote a very large amount of time and attention to the lodge, and as he is almost letter perfect in the ritual, the work done by himself and his officers will compare very favorably with that done in some of the city lodges. During the past year they have had a considerable amount of work, the class of material admitted into the lodge being above the

average. The new W. M., W. Brother Kennedy, is Registrar of the district, who will also be in a position to devote all the time and attention necessary for the interests of the lodge, and as he has a very able staff of officers associated with him, I look forward to a further advance in its prosperity. This is the oldest lodge in the district, owning the brick block in which their hall is located, valued at about \$3000; the finances are well looked after, and the dues collected much more promptly than in some lodges, the consequence being that suspensions for N. P. D. are very rare. The Secretary, W. Bro. Capt. Macfarlane, has held the position for many years, and his work is most efficiently performed; his books and accounts being kept in a manner that leaves little further to be desired. As the representative of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master I was received right loyally by the brethren, and presented with an address of congratulation by the lodge upon my elevation to the office of D. D. G. M. After the installation ceremony was concluded, the lodge repaired to the banquet room for a couple of hours, when a most enjoyable time was spent; the menu was first-class, the songs and speeches were good, and the very best kind of feeling and brotherly love prevailed. A very pleasing incident occurred during the evening which was an object lesson to the brethren, as showing what true Masonry can accomplish. Two prominent brethren have had a very serious difference for a year past, and while friends and brethren of the lodge have endeavored to effect a reconciliation, their efforts were not successful; but as they met in the lodge this evening I presume they both felt that this was no place in which to harbor ill-feelings towards each other, the consequence being that a spontaneous reconciliation took place, which having been effected, the applause of the members was so hearty that I was afraid it would literally "bring down the house." In conclusion I cannot refrain from mentioning that this lodge has a large number of Past Masters, who continue to take an active interest in its affairs, to which must be attributed to a large extent its continued prosperity.

Jan. 14th, 1897. Visited Nipissing Lodge, No. 420, North Bay. This lodge possesses one of the best furnished and equipped halls in the district, but the lodge itself is not in as prosperous condition as one could desire. Being a railroad town they have been affected by the hard times perhaps more than any lodge in the district. As the officers had only recently been installed, and quite a number of them are railroad men who were out on the road and whose places had to be filled by substitutes, I could not form an accurate idea of the work

performed by the officers as a whole. The W. M., W. Bro. Dr. McMurchy, opened and closed in the three degrees in an acceptable manner, but was then called away on professional business and was not able to return. The second degree was conferred very creditably by W. Bro. Dr. McKnight, the I. P. M. The work of the Wardens was fairly good, but that of the other officers was generally poor. The Secretary's books are neatly and properly kept and certainly are a credit to that officer. I found that some of their meetings were very poorly attended and upon two or three occasions last year there were not sufficient for a quorum, and as there are a Blue Lodge, a Chapter and a Preceptory in this place, which contains only about 2,200 people, I am of the opinion that they are suffering from an overdose of Masonry and that one interferes with the success of the others. I was received very enthusiastically by the members of the lodge and was pleased to see a goodly number of Past Masters present, who take an active interest in its welfare, by whom I was assured that the present depression was only temporary. After the lodge was closed an adjournment was made to the refreshment room, where a very pleasant hour was spent.

March 10th. Visited Unity Lodge, No. 376, Huntsville. This is one of the most prosperous lodges in the district, their hall being handsomely furnished and equipped. I was most cordially received by the W. M., W. Bro. Hart, and the officers and members of the lodge, with whom I spent a very pleasant evening. The first and third degrees were conferred by the W. M. in a very commendable manner; he was assisted by some of the Past Masters, who indicated by their work that the W. M. evidently does not monopolize the whole of it, but allows them at least sufficient to keep them in practice, which I consider is right. The opening and closing in the three degrees was very well done by most of the officers, but there were some who were not as well up as they should be. The routine business was properly conducted, and I found the Secretary's books thoroughly well kept. Altogether, although there were a number of minor defects which I pointed out, I am satisfied that this lodge has officers who have a good general knowledge of their work; are zealous and enthusiastic, and are determined to make it one of the best in the district. They are fortunately in possession of a number of first-class Past Masters, including R. W. Bro. Sacret, P. D. D. G. M., to whom must be attributed in a considerable measure the large amount of prosperity they continue to enjoy.

March 23rd. Visited Algonquin Lodge, No. 434, Emsdale,

at the invitation of W. Bro. Nunn, the W. M., who was obliged to be absent, when I had the pleasure of meeting my old friend, R. W. Bro. George Tait, P. D. D. G. M., of Toronto, who happened to be present, and together we conferred two third degrees. This lodge continues to prosper, and is admitting good material. The officers did their work well, and with one or two trifling exceptions everything was very satisfactory. After the work was concluded a pleasant hour was spent in the refreshment room, which ended a very enjoyable evening.

April 7th. Visited Nickel Lodge, No. 427, Sudbury: This lodge, which is numerically the strongest in the district, is located in very large and commodious premises, the lodge and ante-rooms, with their furnishings and equipments, being the handsomest in the jurisdiction, a notable feature being the decoration and lighting of the lodge room proper. This may be described as an up-to-date lodge, and I was much pleased to see most of the officers and a number of the brethren appear in evening dress, a custom I would like to see more prevalent than it is. All the brethren appear to take a great interest in their lodge and there is an air of prosperity existing which is very gratifying to a visiting D. D. G. M. Their books and accounts, which are well kept, indicate that they have no liabilities and also that they have a very substantial amount of assets. I was met at the station by W. Bro. Reid and a number of the brethren, who I found had made ample arrangements for my accomodation and who spared no effort to make my visit one of the most enjoyable I have experienced. Owing to a combination of circumstances the attendance at the lodge was much smaller than anticipated, one reason in particular being the bad state of the roads, which prevented brethren from a distance attending. The opening and closing in the three degrees was well done, as was the conferring of the second degree by the W. M. The officers generally appear to have a proper appreciation of their work and are able to exemplify it. There were a few trifling imperfections which I pointed out to the brethren, but as some of the officers were substitutes this was scarcely to be wondered at, and I am of the impression that the work carried on by this lodge will compare very favorably with that done in any lodge in the district. After the lodge was closed an adjournment was made to the refreshment room, where a couple of hours were spent in social intercourse, which terminated a most enjoyable evening's proceedings.

May 10th. Visited Golden Rule Lodge, No. 409, Gravenhurst; This is the first lodge I have visited where there has been no work. The attendance was very small, a bare quorum being present, and this in a town of two thousand would in-

dicating that there is a lack of interest amongst the members of the lodge, which is very much to be regretted. The hard times consequent upon the depression in the lumber trade appear to have affected this lodge to a greater extent than most of the others, and their prospects for the near future I do not consider to be encouraging. The opening and closing in the three degrees, and the conduct of a Board of Trial, were very creditably performed by W. Bro. Dr. Long, the W. M., considering the limited opportunity he has in consequence of there being no material offering, but as the other chairs were either not filled at all or were occupied by substitutes, I had no means of judging of the proficiency of the regular lodge officers. The books and accounts of the lodge are neatly and properly kept but I regret to notice the very large amount of unpaid dues which appears in the auditor's report. Altogether my visit was a disappointment as I had anticipated a good attendance in consequence of an emergent meeting having previously been held for the purpose of making arrangements for the official visit of the D. D. G. M. I must say however that I was accorded a very hearty reception and what was lacking in numbers was made up in enthusiasm. After the lodge was closed a very pleasant half hour was spent around the refreshment table, everything being done to make my visit as enjoyable as possible.

May 11. Visited Muskoka Lodge, No. 36c, Bracebridge: I was met at the station by R. W. Bro. Huber, V. W. Bro. Hills, and a number of other brethren, and received a very cordial welcome in the lodge. This lodge has been very successful in the past, but is temporarily undergoing a period of depression; the prospects for the future, however, are encouraging. There being no work on hand, W. Bro. Mahaffy, the W. M., and his officers opened and closed in the three degrees in a way which showed that they are quite capable of doing the work in a creditable manner, and as they have a number of very able P. M.'s, including R. W. Bro. Huber, who take a great interest in the lodge, it would be surprising if the standard of proficiency were not maintained. The routine business of the lodge was well conducted, the debating ability of the members being considerably above the average. The books and accounts reflect a great deal of credit upon the Secretary, but it is to be regretted that their outstanding dues amount to a very large sum. The hall, which is occupied jointly as a lodge and chapter room, is very convenient and beautifully furnished. After the lodge was closed an enjoyable hour was spent in the refreshment room, at which the very best of feeling prevailed.

May 19th. Visited Strong Lodge, No. 423, Sundridge. Owing to sickness, a number of prominent brethren being out of town and stormy weather, this lodge was not as well attended this evening as it usually is. There should have been considerable work to do, but in consequence of the rain and bad state of the roads candidates upon whom degrees were to be conferred were not present. The lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees fairly well by W. Bro. Auldjo, the W. M., but it probably would have been better if the proper officers had occupied their respective chairs. The weakest part of this lodge is apparently the business department, the minutes have not been properly kept, and the Treasurer's books not being available, I was unable to judge of its financial standing, although I understand it is good. I called attention to the fact that the business interests must be better attended to and have reason to believe that they will be in future. The returns to Grand Lodge had not been sent in for eighteen months, although they have always had ample means on hand and the Auditor's report had not been adopted because it had been mislaid. This lodge is constantly adding good material to its membership and the prospects are reasonably good. Unfortunately, owing to the hard times, it has a much larger amount on its books in the shape of unpaid dues than it should have. As there was no work on hand I gave a short address upon the teachings and symbolism of the degrees, which the brethren appeared to appreciate. The lodge and ante-rooms are neat and commodious and well furnished.

In conclusion I have again to thank the brethren for the many acts of kindness shown to me, and I trust that the good feeling existing between the district and myself may be continued under my successor.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

J. H. KNIFTON, D. D. G. M.,
Nipissing District, No. 18.

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Table Showing the work done in Nipissing District, No. 18, from June 24th, 1896, to June 24th, 1897.

Number of Lodges.	NAME OF Lodge.	LOCATION.	Mem-ber-ship.		Degre's conf'd	Attributions.		Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, other causes.	Deceased.	Meet-ings held.		Average attendance of members.		Amount paid for relief.		No. of members 12 months in arrears.	Total of all Arrearages.	Date of last G. L. Return.	Financial Standing.	Prospects of Lodge.	Can. W. M. work all degrees.	Insurance.
			Increase during year.	Decrease during year.		E. A.	F. C.						M. M.	Regular.	Emergency.	Total.	Regular.	Emergency.								Total.
352	Granite ...	Parry Sound ..	65	1	3	7	7	7	1	1	..	..	13	13	215	15	\$50 50	3	31	00	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Fair.	Yes	2300 00
360	Muskoka ..	Bracebridge ..	47	1	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	11	11	112	9	..	17	110	21	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	300 00
376	Unity	Huntsville	72	10	8	9	4	4	2	7	1	..	13	13	114	25	25 00	..	..	..	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	500 00
409	Gold'n Rule	Gravenhurst ..	37	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	10	10	112	9	40 00	16	148	00	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Fair.	Yes	500 00
420	Nipissing..	North Bay	79	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	13	13	111	15	9 00	24	205	50	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Favorable	Yes	500 00
427	Nickel	Sudbury	88	4	4	11	12	16	4	11	..	..	13	13	417	19	..	20	200	90	Jan., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	600 00
435	Algonquin.	Emisdale	27	4	4	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	113	11	..	22	35	50	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Good.	Yes	200 00
423	Strong	Sundridge	48	4	4	4	4	3	..	1	..	..	13	13	215	15	10 00	27	134	75	Dec., '96.....	Good.	Bright.	Yes	200 00

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON WARRANTS.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, President of the Board of General Purposes, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board, through the Committee on Warrants, recommend that Warrants be issued to the following lodges :

Alexandria Lodge, No. 439, Alexandria, St. Lawrence District, No. 15.

Arcadia Lodge, No. 440, Minden, Ontario District, No. 12, (under dispensation as Algonquin Lodge.)

Westport Lodge, No. 441, Westport, Frontenac District, No. 14.

And that dispensations be granted to Nitetis Lodge, Creemore, Georgian District, No. 9 ; and continued to Dymont Lodge, Thessalon, Algoma District, No. 16, and Powassen Lodge, Powassen, Nipissing District, No. 18.

The Board, after due consideration of the papers presented, cannot recommend that a dispensation be granted for the opening of a lodge at Wheatly, in Erie District, No. 1.

Fraternally submitted,

L. SECORD,

Chairman Sub-Committee on Warrants.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. L. Secord, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Board on Warrants be received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON PRINTING AND SUPPLIES.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board of General Purposes, through the Committee on Printing and Supplies, beg to make the following recommendations :

1st. The following accounts have been duly examined and certified by the Grand Secretary are recommended to the Finance and Audit Committee for payment :—

John Eastwood & Co. (Stationery to June, 1897,).....	\$ 76 90	
Copp, Clark & Co., (Certificates to June, 1897,) on account..	600 00	
"Spectator" Printing Company, Printing.....	\$1152.44	
Less paid April 30th, on account....	1000.00	152 44
Total.....		\$829 34

2nd. In view of the fact that the contract for the printing of Grand Lodge Proceedings expires in October, 1898, the Board recommend that the Grand Secretary be directed to advertise for tenders for the printing of the same, on the specifications adopted by Grand Lodge in 1893 (the same upon which the present contract was awarded) and report to the Board.

3rd. Complaints having been frequently received from brethren in every section of the jurisdiction, regarding the great difficulty experienced in reading the printed "Ceremonies" issued by Grand Lodge, owing to the smallness of the type used therein, the Board recommend that 1000 separate copies of each of the following ceremonies, viz.: "Organizing, Constituting and Consecrating a New Lodge," "Dedication of a Masonic Hall," "Installation of Lodge Officers," "The Funeral Ceremony," and "Ceremony of Laying a Corner Stone," be printed in Long Primer type (instead of Brevier as at present) without cover, stitched together on good paper, and disposed of to lodges at first cost.

4th. The Board will endeavor to place the different reports of Grand Lodge (such as are deemed prudent to print at this time) in the hands of the members as soon as possible after their submission.

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN S. DEWAR,

Chairman of Sub-Committee on Printing and Supplies.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. J. S. Dewar, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Board on Printing and Supplies be received and (subsequently) adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON AUDIT AND FINANCE.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board, through the Committee on Finance and Audit, have audited the books of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and certify to their correctness.

All moneys received by the Grand Secretary have been paid over to the Grand Treasurer, and their receipt acknowledged by that officer. Vouchers have been produced for all payments made by the Grand Treasurer as authorized by Grand Lodge.

The report of the Grand Secretary gives a full statement of receipts from all sources, as well as other business transacted in the office.

The total receipts have been	\$ 20,828 82
The total expenditures have been	17,613 03

Receipts over expenditures	\$ 3,215 79
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The receipts last year were \$20,215.17, leaving a balance in favor of this year of \$613.65.

The expenditures last year were \$15,747.80, leaving a balance against this year of \$865.23, which is explained by the payments of of Grand Master's allowance, \$500; testimonial, \$300; increase in Grand Secretary's salary, \$400.

The funds of Grand Lodge on May 31st, 1897, were as follows :

British Canadian Loan and Investment Co., at $4\frac{1}{4}\%$..	\$15,000 00
Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Co., at $4\frac{1}{4}\%$	15,000 00
Western Canada Loan and Savings Co., at 4%	10,000 00
Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Co., at 4%	10,000 00
Landing Banking and Loan Co., at $4\frac{1}{4}\%$	10,000 00
“ “ “ “ at 4%	5,000 00
Ontario Loan and Debenture Co., at $4\frac{1}{4}\%$	5,000 00
Canadian Loan and Savings Co., at $4\frac{1}{4}\%$	5,000 00
Owen Sound, Grey and Bruce Loan Co., at 5%	5,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$80,000 00

CURRENT ACCOUNT :

Balance in Canadian Bank of Commerce	\$14,202 17
	<hr/>
Grand total.....	\$94,202 17

Making the investments as follows :

Toronto.....	\$35,000 00
Hamilton	15,000 00
London	25,000 00
Owen Sound.....	5,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$80,000 00

Which amount represents the balance at the credit of the following accounts :

General Fund	\$79,332 42
Asylum Fund.....	14,869 75
	<hr/>
	\$94,202 17

The Board have examined the following accounts and finding them correct, recommend their payment :

Committee for report on foreign correspondence.....	\$ 100 00
Grand Secretary, balance of incidentals to 31st May, 1897	154 24
Grand Secretary, advance for incidentals	500 00
Grants to Benevolence	8,460 00
General Masonic Relief Association, annual subscription..	112 65
Premium on Grand Secretary's Guarantee Bond	50 00
Expenses—Special meeting of Grand Lodge at Glamis, 1896	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$9,391 89

The Committee on Printing and Supplies having reported that the following accounts are correct, the Board recommend their payment :

J. Eastwood & Co., stationery	\$ 76 90
Copp, Clark & Co., warrants and certificates, on acc't..	600 00
Spectator Printing Co., proceedings,	
constitutions, etc.....	\$1,152 44
Less paid on account.....	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 829 84

An application has been received from Forest Lodge, No. 162, Wroxeter, stating that they have included in their returns and paid dues for several members for several years, who ought to have been returned as deceased or demitted, evidently an error of the lodge secretary in making said returns, and asking that the account be adjusted. The Board recommend that the Grand Secretary be in-

structed to re-adjust the account with said lodge, and pay over any balance which may be found due.

Faternally submitted,

THOS. SARGANT,

Chairman of Sub-Committee on Audit and Finance.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. Thomas Sargent, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Board on Audit and Finance be received and (subsequently) adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON BENEVOLENCE.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board, through the Committee on Benevolence, beg to report that they have received 292 applications which have been dealt with as follows :

- 154 application from private lodges, of which 143 have been granted, amounting to.....\$4,440 00
 11 have been rejected.
 144 applications through Local Boards of Relief, of which 132 have been granted, amounting to..... 3,800 00
 12 have been rejected.

SPECIAL GRANTS :

To Mrs. Wilson.....	150 00
“ Miss Mary Wilson	300 00
“ Miss M. H. Harris.....	75 00
“ Bro. R. Farquharson.....	25 00
“ Bro. Edward Green.....	25 00

Total grants	\$8,815 00
Amount granted in 1896.....	9,830 00

Decrease in 1897.....\$1,015 00

Returns have been made by all the Local Boards. Returns have not been made by Lodges No. 97, 105, 133, 135, 171, 274 and 419. This is an improvement on last year, but the Board hope that next year all lodges will see the necessity to send in the returns in proper time. The Board further recommend that no cheque be forwarded to the above lodges by the Grand Secretary until the returns of said lodges are received by him.

Seventy-six lodges receiving grants from Grand Lodge contributed \$3,217.01, whilst twelve contributed nothing. The Local Boards of Relief have contributed \$2,337.41. During the year 1896 the sum of \$14,223 was expended in benevolence, made up as follows :

Grand Lodge grants through private lodges.....	\$ 5,070 00
Grand Lodge grants through local boards.....	3,940 00
Grand Lodge special grants.....	820 00
Grants by seventy-two lodges.....	2,061 00
Grants by local boards	2,332 01

Total\$14,223 01

The Board recommend —

1st. That no payments be made on account of the grants made to new applicants, and those applications in which investigation is directed by the committee, until after investigation by the Inspector.

2nd. That the Inspector be paid his expenses and for his time in attending Grand Lodge the sum of \$30.

3rd. That a new form of application be prepared by the Chairman adding additional enquiries as to the residence and postoffice address of every applicant for benevolence.

4th. That the recommendation of the Board numbered two in last year's report be strictly adhered to in the future, and that the D. D. G. M.'s be requested to bring the said recommendation before each lodge visited by them within their respective districts.

5th. The Board recognize the usefulness of affiliation with the General Relief Association of the United States and Canada. It can be said with absolute certainty that Grand Lodge and the private lodges have benefited to an unlimited extent by the methods of that organization. Many thousands of dollars have during the past eight years been saved in connection with the work of relief. The amount saved yearly in appropriations to Local Boards of relief have alone exceeded many times the yearly cost of affiliation, and the system proves that organization in the work of relief is essential to success.

6th. The Board desire to draw particular attention to the fact that appropriations made for grants to local Boards of Relief are intended to be expended in transient relief only, and not for the purposes of local relief of any kind. Expenditure for local relief is to be contributed by the lodges forming the local boards.

7th. It is most desirable in any city or town where a local Board of Relief has been formed that every lodge meeting in the place should be a contributing member of the local board. It is manifestly unfair on the part of lodges to try and evade the responsibility of contributing their fair share towards the requirements for local relief, and thus throwing upon a few the burden that should be borne equally by all. Members of lodges refusing to contribute the small sum required should seriously consider the advisability of extending relief to the widows and orphans of their deceased members, instead of sending their applications to Grand Lodge.

8th. The board, in order to mark in a fitting manner the Diamond Jubilee of our most Gracious Sovereign, recommend that the sum of \$2,000 be granted to the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, to endow a cot in the Masonic ward in that institution founded by our M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, the cot to be known as the Grand Lodge Cot, No. 1.

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN E. HARDING,

Chairman Sub-Committee on Benevolence.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. Harding, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Board of Benevolence be received and (subsequently) adopted.

RETURNS BY LOCAL BOARDS OF RELIEF AS AT 31ST MAY, 1897.

NAME OF BOARD.	RECEIPTS.										EXPENDITURES.									
	Balance on Hand.	Direct Grants for Transient Relief.	Special Grants to Applicants.	From Private Lodges.	From Other Sources.	Total Receipts.	Balance due Treasurer.	Special Grants to Applicants.	Transient Relief.	Local Relief.	Funeral Expenses.	Orders returned.	Other Payments.	Incidentals.	Total Expenditures.	Balance on Hand.				
Barrie.....	18 00	50 00	60 00	30 00	5 00	163 00	.....	60 00	35 50	93 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	153 00	10 00
Belleville.....	28 21	.....	140 00	95 25	25 00	288 46	.....	140 00	6 65	80 00	6 50	.....	.....	05	260 05	28 41
Brockville.....	52 00	.....	100 00	124 20	.....	276 20	.....	100 00	6 65	120 00	12 00	.....	.....	44	239 09	37 11
Galt.....	1 77	.....	50 00	45 00	.....	96 77	.....	50 00	50 00	45 00	.....	.....	.....	06	95 56	1 21
Guelph.....	.....	25 00	140 00	123 40	.....	288 40	.....	130 00	6 00	114 23	.....	10 00	.....	.....	287 05	1 35
Hamilton.....	245 66	.....	530 00	62 01	144 00	951 67	2 74	510 00	96 41	328 00	.....	20 00	.....	.....	954 41	.....			
Kingston.....	.....	20 00	420 00	169 00	35 00	644 90	.....	420 00	65 00	120 50	35 00	.....	.....	1 90	642 40	2 50
London.....	80 26	25 00	560 00	168 10	241 44	1074 80	.....	560 00	31 00	385 25	.....	.....	.....	6 00	982 25	92 55
Oshawa.....	.....	.....	55 00	50 00	.....	105 00	2 37	55 00	1 75	50 00	.....	.....	06	.....	107 37	.....			
Ottawa.....	133 19	25 00	355 00	238 52	.....	751 71	.....	355 00	66 90	166 90	92 37	.....	.....	2 00	682 27	69 44
Peterborough.....	35 11	.....	50 00	10 00	18 50	113 61	.....	50 00	16 00	21 60	.....	.....	10 00	2 75	100 35	13 26
St. Thomas.....	.....	.....	60 00	50 00	17 50	127 50	.....	60 00	.....	39 31	.....	.....	7 50	25	107 22	20 28
Stratford.....	99 83	.....	145 00	71 10	1 72	317 65	.....	145 00	43 00	50 00	.....	.....	.....	1 85	239 85	77 80
Toronto.....	700 56	.....	950 00	196 86	119 25	1966 67	.....	950 00	11 00	15 00	30 00	.....	84 25	127 55	1317 80	648 87	
Windsor.....	26 75	.....	70 00	.....	.....	96 75	.....	70 00	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	81 00	15 75
Woodstock.....	5 77	.....	120 00	20 00	.....	145 75	.....	120 00	1 94	20 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	141 94	3 83

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON GRIEVANCE AND APPEALS.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board beg to report as follows on the following cases of grievances and appeals :

(1) Bruce Lodge, No. 341 vs. Bro. T. B. Miller. Adultery and seduction.

This matter has been before Grand Lodge since 1895, and as will be found on page 214 of the Grand Lodge proceedings of 1896, the Board recommended that the Grand Secretary serve a notice upon Bro. Miller by mailing a copy, registered to the last known address of Bro. Miller, to show cause at this Grand Lodge why he should not be expelled. Evidence of service upon Bro. Miller by the Grand Secretary in the manner indicated above being before your Board, and Bro. Miller having made default, the Board recommend that he be expelled from the craft for the offences proved.

(2) Pequonga Lodge, No. 414, vs. Bro. A. Campbell, theft, for which he was convicted and sent to Central Prison for fifteen months. As will be seen by refering to Grand Lodge proceedings for 1896, page 214, the Board recommended that Bro. Campbell be summoned before this meeting of Grand Lodge to show cause why he should not be expelled from the craft for the offence proved. Bro. Campbell has been duly summoned and has made default; the Board therefore recommend that Bro. Campbell be expelled from the craft for said offence.

(3) Tuscan Lodge, No. 195 vs. W. Bro. W. T. H. Vanstone.

According to Grand Lodge proceedings 1896, page 215, the Board recommended that Bro. Vanstone be summoned to appear before this meeting of Grand Lodge to show cause why he should not be expelled from the craft for the offences proved (seduction of a Mason's daughter). Evidence has been produced that Bro. Vanstone has been duly summoned, and he having made default, the Board recommend that he be expelled from the craft for said offence.

(4) St. John's Lodge, No. 82, vs. Bro. J. Clegg.

See Grand Lodge proceedings, 1896, page 215. According to these proceedings the Board recommended that Bro. Clegg be summoned to appear before this meeting of Grand Lodge to show cause why he should not be expelled from the Craft. Bro. Clegg has appeared on such summons and has produced to the Board a petition signed by the W. M. and five Past Masters of his lodge, No. 82 (all present at Grand Lodge), stating that they consider Bro. Clegg has been sufficiently punished; that the nature of the offence is much less serious than at first appeared, and asking Grand Lodge to defer any further proceedings till Bro. Clegg can produce a certified copy of the evidence taken in court. The Board, therefore, recommend that the matter be deferred till next meeting of Grand Lodge as asked in said petition.

(5) Great Western, No. 47, Windsor, Atkinson vs. Allen. Wife desertion.

The Board are clearly of the opinion that the charge has not been sustained; on the contrary the Board think the evidence shows that the wife left and refused to live with the husband, and although he wrote her a pressing letter to come back and live with him, she not

only did not do so, but refused to answer the letter. The Board recommend that Bro. Allen's suspension be removed.

(6) Marmora, No. 222, vs. Bro. Donald Clarke. Larcency moneys.

Marmora Lodge has not forwarded the Grand Secretary any copy of the minutes of the lodge meeting at which the charge laid was to be taken up, and the Board have no evidence before them that Bro. Clarke was in fact tried by his lodge. The Board recommend that all the papers be returned to Marmora Lodge, to be taken up by Grand Lodge when proper material has been supplied.

(7) Unity, No. 376, Huntsville, vs. Bro. F. G. Pokorney. Larcency, for which the Bro. was convicted and sentenced to eighteen months in the Central Prison.

He has not been tried by his lodge, and the Board recommend that the papers be returned to Unity Lodge for further action thereon.

(8) Pequonga Lodge, No. 414, vs. Malahide Lodge, No. 140. Breach of jurisdiction.

One Thomas Brightly, whose parents lived at Aylmer, within jurisdiction of Malahide Lodge, but working and in receipt of wages within the jurisdiction of Pequonga Lodge, applied for initiation to Malahide Lodge, who initiated him and asked Pequonga Lodge to confer the second and third degrees upon him, which they refused to do, and lodged a complaint for breach of jurisdiction by Malahide Lodge. Your Board are of the opinion that there has been no breach of jurisdiction. Section 215 of the Constitution was amended in 1896 (see Grand Lodge proceedings, 1896, page 230) as follows: "The place where a candidate is constantly employed and is in receipt of his wages or salary, though not strictly speaking his place of residence, may be treated by him as such for the purpose of this and the next preceding paragraph. Bro. Brightly therefore had a right to apply for initiation into Malahide Lodge, within whose jurisdiction his parents live, and Malahide Lodge has done no wrong in initiating him.

(9) Zeredatha Lodge, No. 220 vs. J. B. Hall Lodge, No. 145.

Zeredatha Lodge complains that the J. B. Hall Lodge initiated a candidate who belonged to the jurisdiction of J. B. Hall Lodge, but who had not resided within the jurisdiction of the latter lodge for one year previous to his initiation, and who had not produced a certificate of character from Zeredatha Lodge, from whose jurisdiction he had recently removed, and Zeredatha Lodge claims the initiation fee. The Board are of the opinion that Zeredatha Lodge has no claim to any portion of the initiation fee, as it is not a question of the breach of the jurisdiction but of the constitution.

It has been stated before your board that that the J. B. Hall Lodge has a letter from Zeredatha Lodge, essentially containing such a certificate of character as would fairly justify the Master of J. B. Hall Lodge in initiating the candidate, but as such letter is not before the Board, they recommend that the matter be held over till next meeting of Grand Lodge for further investigation.

(10) Wingham Lodge, No. 286 vs. Blyth Lodge, No. 303.

Breach of jurisdiction in three cases. It appears from a statement made by the Master of Blyth Lodge, (who claims all three parties to have resided within their jurisdiction), that the dividing line between Wingham and Blyth Lodge has not been clearly ascertained, and as no evidence has been produced before us that Blyth Lodge has done any wrong in the premises, your Board recommend that the papers be returned to Wingham Lodge with a request for them to have a

proper survey made ; with liberty to Wingham Lodge to enter a new complaint if such survey should show that Blyth Lodge has taken material from their jurisdiction.

Fraternally submitted,

JAMES H. BURRITT,

Chairman Sub-Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. J. H. Burritt,

That the Report of the Board on Grievances and Appeals be received and adopted.

It was moved in amendment by R. W. Bro. E. S. Wigle, seconded by W. Bro. Thomas Peters,

That clause 5 of the report be eliminated, and that the grievance therein dealt with be referred back to the Board for further consideration, and to report at next meeting of Grand Lodge, with liberty to Great Western Lodge to submit any further evidence that was taken at the investigation, and that the report so amended be adopted.

The amendment was put to Grand Lodge and declared *carried*.

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON THE CONDITION OF MASONRY.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board have received the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters of the eighteen districts, as well as the tabulated statements accompanying them, and are pleased to be able to report that 348 lodges in the jurisdiction have been visited during the year, many of them twice and some four or five times.

Only nine were not visited officially, viz. :

Kilwinning.....	London.
Prince of Wales	Iona.
Mount Olivet	Thorndale.
King Solomon	Jarvis.
Copetstone	Welland
Faithful Brethren.....	Lindsay.
J. B. Hall	Millbrook.
Victoria.....	Victoria Road.
St. John	Vankleek Hill.

These lodges should receive the special attention of the incoming D. D. G. Masters, in the same way that the five lodges not visited last year have been specially looked after during the present term.

The office of D. D. G. Master of the London District having been vacated by death, in May last, of R. W. Bro. W. G. McMillen, was filled by the appointment of R. W. Bro. A. B. Greer for the balance of the term.

After a careful perusal of the district reports and the tabulated statements, the Board are of opinion that each of the D. D. G. Masters has faithfully discharged the duties of his office, and is deserving of the hearty thanks of Grand Lodges. Too much credit cannot be given to these zealous and painstaking officers. Many officers having very extended districts, with little railway facilities, are compelled to submit to many discomforts while paying their official visitations, travelling long distances, over bad roads, in inclement weather. The brethren, in their comfortable lodge-rooms, who look forward with pleasure to the entertaining and instructive evening of the annual official visit, have little idea of the valuable time actually consumed in the journey to and from them.

One brother has travelled over 2000 miles, and been absent from home thirty days and nights in making these visits.

Several of the D. D. G. Masters, before commencing their visits, issued circulars to the Masters of lodges, recommending that great attention should be given to the perfecting of the subordinate officers in their work; that great care should be exercised in the selection of material; that the members be cautioned to avoid piques and quarrels; and all should exercise the greatest forbearance.

The duties performed by District Deputies during their visits consisted of the inspection of the work as shown in the ceremonies of opening and closing in the several degrees, in the conferring of degrees, the reviewing of the obligations, the exemplification of the esoteric work, and the discussion of the general and financial condition of the lodges. One of these officers held special meetings of the Master and Past Masters at the close of the meetings for instruction in the installation ceremony.

District Lodges of Instruction were held in seven districts, viz.: At Essex, Watford, London, St. Marys, Wingham, Walkerton, Galt and Toronto, were largely attended, and resulted in the diffusion of much useful information, and in securing greater uniformity in floor work. Several D. D. G. Masters did not hold Lodges of Instruction, preferring to give special attention to those lodges needing help.

The Board are of opinion that by means of a District Lodge of Inspection, uniformity is secured, and again reiterate that when practicable they should be held, thus carrying out the often expressed wish of Grand Lodge.

Lodges reported last year as being in a weak or dormant state have received the special attention of D. D. G. Masters who seem to have carefully examined the reports of their predecessors, and of the Board, and acquainted themselves with the duties imposed on them in this connection, and as a result there are instances in which a revival of interest is reported, and an improved condition expected.

Most of the lodges are insured against loss by fire, and the wisdom of that precaution is exemplified in the case of the lodges at Ottawa, when the lodge room jointly occupied by the lodges of the city, was destroyed. Happily everything was covered by a sum sufficient to start again both lodge and library. In their extremity the brothers found friends. The Oddfellows placed an unoccupied hall at their services at a fair rental. The brethren of Eddy Lodge, Hull, on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, loaned them lodge furniture, P. G. M. J. Ross Robertson, presented them with a volume of the Sacred Law, a box of working tools and gavel. Another brother gave a sword, another a register and still others helped. Their kindly gifts were highly appreciated, but it was the insurance money that enabled the lodges to start again, and though they have lost books

and other valuable property which money could not buy, they are enabled to begin in a comfortable home without calling upon the members to personally furnish the funds.

The Board are pleased to report that in a majority of the districts the travelling expenses of the D. D. G. Masters are cheerfully paid by the lodges, and are of opinion that where this is not the case it is the fault of their officers, or of those who preceded them in office, in not placing the matter before the lodge.

One brother says: "Some lodges defray the expenses of these official visits promptly and cheerfully, others only after delay, and I was not always able to feel sure that the pittance was paid without a grudge. Also whispering reached me of impositions of former days in the way of livery bills, etc., which the lodge thought outrageous. These things are not only humiliating to the D. D. G. Master, but they militate against his performing his duties, both to the local lodge and to the Grand Lodge. Where the wealthy D. D. G. Masters uniformly to decline reimbursement of their expenses, it would soon preclude every poor brother, however well versed in the craft, from occupying the office. It is my opinion," says this D. D. G. Master, "that the Grand Lodge ought to pay, together with a fixed rate of mileage, a stated fee for every lodge inspected,—so much for each first visit, and a less fee for each second visit." The Board are of the opinion that the recommendation of Grand Lodge, that the expenses of the visits of D. D. G. Masters be paid by the lodges, and which has been found to work so well in a majority of the districts, should be adhered to, and that every such officer, whether wealthy or not, should regard it as a duty to the district to receive reimbursement of his travelling expenses. The board cannot recommend that mileage and fees be paid by Grand Lodge, or that any other extraordinary expenditure be incurred which would interfere with the benevolent grants of Gaand Lodge, and which, instead of being reduced, ought to be considerably increased.

Masters of Lodges are generally reported as being able to confer the three degrees and to open and close their lodges. Occasionally there is a report of one who can do neither, but who depends entirely upon a Past Master to work for him. He has been elected because of personal popularity or of seniority, and the lodge is injured by having at its head one who is incompetent to discharge the duties of the office. The Installing Board in such a case are very much to blame, and its members liable to Masonic discipline.

Secretaries are in most instances reported as capable of keeping the records and financial affairs in good shape. More attention is given by them to the collection of dues than formerly. The D. D. G. Masters have been most useful in placing before the lodges the desirability of making regular collections and gathering in arrears.

As a result of the recommendation of the Board much care is exercised in the examination of visitors, one D. D. G. Master reporting with pride than when he presented himself clothed in the District Regalia at the portals of a lodge, he was refused admittance until after a Board of Trial had examined him and vouched for him as a Master Mason.

One D. D. G. Master complains that the practice of canvassing for office is increasing in his district. He says: "Within the past two years more systematic canvassing has been done, hereabouts, than has been the case in the memory of the oldest Mason, and the flagrant methods adopted by brethren, who should and do know better, are specially obnoxious to every high principled craftsman in the

"district. Several youthful Past Masters, who doubtless expect to receive an appointment for the effort put forth, are known to have written letters to brethren in sister lodges inviting them to do their level best to elect so and so in preference to another brother (name given) whose offence it appears was in exercising his franchise as a Past Master in favor of the candidate of his choice at the last communication of Grand Lodge."

The Board cannot too strongly condemn the practice of canvassing for office, and recommend to the consideration of the members of Grand Lodge a clause in the address to Grand Lodge of M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson in 1869.

The Grand Master at that time said: "From various parts of our jurisdiction I have learned with great regret that the ambition of some of our brethren, in regard to obtaining lodge offices, seem to have outrun their discretion. In several instances this has been carried so far as to result in the formation of two or more parties in a lodge, and under the eagerness and excitement which such a state of things invariably produces, open canvassing for office has actually been resorted to. Brethren, it is an evil of great magnitude, fraught with most disastrous consequences, and it ought not to be tolerated either in private lodges or in Grand Lodge.

"To be elected to a prominent position in the craft is doubtless an honor to which all deserving brethren may aspire; yet it ought always to be remembered that merit and ability alone are the true grounds of preferment among Masons, and it is most unseemly that anything like electioneering for office should ever be attempted.

"It is to be hoped that in future every brother will denounce and discountenance such proceedings by every means in his power.

"The most effectual mode of securing the complete abolishment of this evil practice will be for every brother, when approached in that way, to cast his vote *against*, instead of *for* the party who resorts to such improper methods for the purpose of obtaining office."

The Board are glad to learn from the reports that the Past Masters continue to give their valuable services to their respective lodges, and that as a rule they are the most regular attendants; and that the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and other Grand Lodge officers and past officers have been able to attend so many of the interesting special meetings held in the districts.

A curious custom has come to light in one of our old lodges, which it has been discovered has no consecutive register of its members. It seems that, instead of having a book in which the by-laws are written or printed, and which candidates are required to sign on the night of initiation, that it has been the custom in this lodge since its formation, fifty years ago, for the W. Master to present the candidate with a copy of the by-laws, then to direct him to sign the same on the cover, and take them home.

As the result of this custom the lodge has no record of the signatures of its members.

The D. D. G. Master very properly pointed out this irregularity, and strongly urged the lodge to adopt the usual method of signing the by-laws in the regular book of the lodge, kept for that purpose, and as far as possible to get the consecutive signatures of all its members again. Notwithstanding this curious departure from the established custom, the D. D. G. Master reports the lodge in every other respect in a healthy condition and well officered, the Master and Secretary being efficient officers.

A very commendable thing was done by one lodge and it might with advantage be copied by others. On the night of the visit of the D. D. G. Master a special effort was made to have all the non-affiliated Masons of the district present. The object sought to be attained was to bring them in contact with their brethren, and awaken in them interest in Masonic affairs, and if possible bring them back to the fold.

It is the custom of the brethren throughout the jurisdiction to attend divine service as lodges once in every year, thereby acknowledging before the profane the Grand Architect of the Universe, whom all Masons revere, and the Board are pleased to note that in every district this is done.

During the year there have been a number of meetings of an unusual character at which lectures have been given, and patriotic, religious and charitable subjects have been dealt with. One especially noticeable was held in Toronto on the sixtieth anniversary of the accession of our Queen. Brethren to the number of 1,500 met in the Masonic hall and marched in procession to the pavilion of Horticultural Gardens, where the members of their families had preceded them. Eloquent addresses were delivered by Brothers the Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education of Ontario; P. G. Master J. Ross Robertson; the District Chaplain, the Rev. Joseph Odery, and the Rev. Dr. Thomas.

At this gathering a collection was taken up to endow a Masonic cot in the hospital for sick children, and the sum of \$826 was received and handed to the secretary of that worthy institution.

In conclusion the Board reiterate the following recommendations:

1st. That D. D. G. Masters shall hold Lodges of Instruction in their respective districts.

2nd. That D. D. G. Masters shall visit the lodges in their districts.

3rd. That D. D. G. Masters shall make an honest effort to collect from the lodges of their districts the amount of their travelling expenses.

4th. That Installing Masters shall refuse to install officers until after they have been examined and vouched for as well skilled.

5th. That Secretaries shall make an increased effort to collect arrearages of dues, and collect dues promptly in the future.

6th. That Secretaries shall notify the D. D. G. Masters of every lodge meeting and the work to be done.

7th. That Secretaries shall make regular returns twice in each year to the Grand Secretary, and that this shall be done whether the lodge can at the same time forward the amount due or not.

8th. That Secretaries shall furnish to the D. D. G. Masters all information required by the tabulated statement in time for these officers to complete their reports at least fourteen days before the meeting of Grand Lodge, as required by the constitution.

9th. That special effort be made in every lodge to get every non-affiliated Mason in its jurisdiction of good character to join the lodge.

10th. That each Master shall see that the property of his lodge is insured against loss by fire.

11th. That all should see that electioneering for office is discounted.

Fraternally submitted,

HUGH MURRAY,

Chairman of Sub-Committee on Condition of Masonry.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, and

Resolved,—That the Report of the Board on the Condition of Masonry be received and (subsequently) adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.

M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Constitution and Laws have the honor to present the following report with reference to the notices of motion appearing in the notice paper.

The Committee have confined their remarks as they conceive they ought to, to the question of the relation of these notices to the Constitution.

Notice No. 1. There seems to be no constitutional objection to the motion. The committee would, however, draw attention to the absence of any provision for the trial of a brother during the session of Grand Lodge for the offence referred to in the Notice. The necessity for a trial in second case appears from the use of the word "conviction" in contradistinction to "detection." The committee took for granted that should the offence be discovered after the session of Grand Lodge the mode of trial would be that laid down in the General Rules as the matter directly affects Grand Lodge. It ought, however, in the opinion of the Committee, to be dealt with by that body, in analogy to the practice of legislative bodies.

Notice No. 2. There seems to be no constitutional objection to this motion, the time limited by the Constitution for the reconsideration of the subject of it having elapsed.

Notice No. 3. There seems to be no constitutional objection to this motion. This notice appears to the Committee to be not just the rule which is sought to be repealed by it, and in their opinion it cannot be considered except upon an open vote to reconsider, to be taken without debate. See page 283 proceedings of 1893.

Notice No. 4. There seems to be no constitutional objection to this motion. It would involve, however, the repeal of section 5 as well as section 314 of the Constitution. The committee would recommend that this resolution be referred to a special committee for consideration to report.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

RICHARD T. WALKEM,
Chairman Sub-Committee on Constitution and Laws.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem, and

Resolved,—That the Report of the Board on Constitution and Laws be received.

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

M. W. Bro. Henry Robertson presented the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, when it was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Bro. Henry Robertson, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be received and printed as an Appendix to the Proceedings.

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON THE FRATERNAL DEAD.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

Another cycle shows our ranks thinned by the arrows of death, and though another steps into the place of the fallen brother, the gap in our lines is still void, the place he held in our hearts empty and waste. *Death* whispered the pass word "peace," and they passed beneath the portals into the inner court, leaving us in a shadow of gloom to learn the saddest and dreariest lesson of life—to live without those we have loved. Poets and sages and those whose mission it is to offer words of comfort, paint the meeting and the greeting on the unknown shore, when we too shall drift over the harbour into the holy calm of the glassy sea. But we never quite forget our dead. The world may laugh again, and we live on, but in the silent watches of the night, at the festive board, in the busy haunts of men, their faces come to us from out the dreamland, and their memory stirs our hearts with the old glad thrill, as in the happy comrade days, when life was one sweet song, and we lived in the sunshine of their love.

London District mourns the loss of R. W. Bro. W. G. McMillen, Past Master Union Lodge, No. 380, London, and D. D. G. M., London District, No. 3, who died 9th May, 1897.

This brother literally died in harness; his life was sacrificed to his Masonic zeal. Despite the admonition of his physician, and the advice of friends, he persisted in his lodge visitations. His constitution was not equal to the strain; he sank exhausted by the way, and entered into rest. Long will his memory last. Of quiet, unassuming manners, noble in character, heroic in spirit, grand in life, triumphant in death; his was a life to be emulated; his was a death to be desired. He not only taught Masonry, but he lived true to his principles, and was an honor in every way to the craft, and the community in which he lived, and where he died.

Toronto District is bereft of the services of V. W. Bro. Edwin W. Gardner, Past Master, Richardson Lodge, No. 136, Stouffville, and Past Grand Organist, who died on the 19th November, 1896. He was a good Mason and a good citizen; his memory will ever be revered by those who had the pleasure of his friendship.

Wilson District; R. W. Bro. the Rev. Wm. Hay, Past Master of Scotland Lodge, No. 193, Scotland, and Past Grand Chaplain, died on the 16th January, 1897. He will long be remembered for his unostentatious piety; his religious zeal and his pure Masonic life. Of him might we say:—

“Far tho’ from out the bourne of time and place
 The flood may bear me far;
 I hope to see my pilot, face to face,
 When I have crossed the bar.”

Hamilton District mourns the death of R. W. Bro. George Russell, P. D. D. G. M., who died in June last. Bro. Russell was a zealous and enthusiastic Mason, who for many years served the Barton Lodge in various offices, and was highly esteemed in the community. For more than a year he had been confined to his house by a painful disease, and we are glad to report that in the end he passed away, a happy and peaceful death. The pleasant smile, the kind words, and noble example of V. W. Bro. David Aitchison, Past Master, St. John’s Lodge, No. 40, Hamilton, Past Assistant Grand Secretary, who died on the 17th March, 1897, will also be sadly missed. His services to the craft will long be remembered. He was faithful unto death.

Frontenac District mourns V. W. Bro. John Sutherland, Past Master, the Ancient St. John’s Lodge, No. 3, Kingston, Past Grand Senior Deacon, who died on the 22nd of March, 1897. This brother rendered great service to the craft, and his loss will be deeply deplored.

In St. Lawrence District, R. W. Bro. the Rev. Canon Pettit, Past Master, Cornwall Lodge, No. 125, Cornwall, and Past Grand Chaplain, is no more, he having died on the 13th December, 1896. Well do we all remember seeing the rev. gentleman at our annual communications. We shall never forget his cheerful smile, his kindly word and his good example. Of him may we say:—

“Life’s race well run,
 Life’s work well done,
 Life’s crown well won :
 Now comes rest.”

Ottawa district, No. 16, in the death of R. W. Bro. Gavin S. Macfarlane, P. D. D. G. M., sustains a loss which time alone can assuage. Deceased was accorded Masonic burial by Prince of Wales Lodge, and that he was highly thought of was evidenced by the very large number of brethren (placed at 400) who attended his obsequies.

Prince Edward Lodge, No. 18, Picton, records the death of V. W. Bro. J. N. Carter, the memory of whose good work in Masonry will ever remain green in the hearts of his sorrowing brethren. He was mayor of the town, and an enthusiastic citizen and Mason.

R. W. Bro. C. Hendry, Past Master, Grand River Lodge, No. 151, Berlin, P. D. D. G. M., Wellington District, No. 7, died on 4th January, 1897. Few have fulfilled the duties appertaining to the office to which they have been elected better than this R. W. Brother. His Masonic zeal was great, and he tried in his life and daily intercourse to exemplify the lessons which Masonry inculcates. This district has also been bereft of the services of R. W. Bro. J. C. Fox, of Harris Lodge, No. 216, Orangeville, and P. D. D. G. M. in 1890. Our deceased brother was a zealous Mason, one whom to know was to esteem. His Masonic record was one well worthy of emulation. Guelph Lodge, No. 253, also mourns the loss of V. W. Bro. J. H. Findlay, who will be greatly missed by his brethren. He was ever active in the interest of the craft, and a warm-hearted friend and fellow citizen.

The Grand Lodge of Manitoba deplores the removal from their midst of M. W. Bro. John Headley Bell, initiated in St John's Lodge, No. 20, London, Past Grand Master, who died on the 16th March, 1897. He rendered great service to the craft in both jurisdictions, and will be long remembered for many acts of kindness and his courtesy to the brethren whilst he was their presiding officer. Bro. Bell was well known to many craftsmen in London and vicinity as an earnest, conscientious Mason, whose friendship and advice were much sought after.

These my brethren, are a few of those who have crossed the silent river since our last Annual Communication. To the family and friends we offer our sincere sympathy, and would recommend that their names be inscribed on the Memorial Pages of our Annual Communication set apart for the purpose.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

GEO. C. DAVIS,

Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Fraternal Dead.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. G. C. Davis, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Board on the Fraternal Dead be received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD ON JURISPRUDENCE.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT:

The Board, through the Committee on Jurisprudence, beg to report:

That a communication has been presented to the Board by the representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine, near this Grand Lodge, enclosing a letter from the Grand Secretary of his Grand Lodge, requesting the consideration of this Grand Lodge of certain resolutions adopted by that Grand Body at their annual communication last year, providing that the effect of rejection of a candidate should be limited to five years.

The Board, while they appreciate the effort of that Grand Lodge to obtain uniform legislation in relation to the admission of rejected candidates, feel that it would at present be undesirable to amend our constitution, which at present provides that rejected candidates cannot be balloted for within twelve months.

Fraternally submitted,

J. C. HEGLER,

Chairman of Sub-Committee on Jurisprudence.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. J. C. Hegler, and

Resolved,—That the Report of the Board on Jurisprudence be received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED AMENEMENTS TO CONSTITUTION REGARDING ELECTIONS.

W. Bro Walter Barwick, on behalf of the Special Committee, presented and read the following

REPORT :

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of A. F. A. M. of Canada in Ontario.

At the last Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge held in the city of Belleville, it was resolved as follows :

“That in the opinion of Grand Lodge the method of nomination for office, form of ballot, and conducting the ballot, should be altered, and that it be referred to a committee consisting of M. W. Bros. J. M. Gibson, Hugh Murray, and J. Ross Robertson, and W. Bros. Dowd and Barwick, to report at the next annual communication what changes it is advisable to make in the Constitution in that regard.”

The committee to whom the matter was referred are of opinion and recommend that it is advisable to make the following changes in the Constitution in regard to the matters referred to in the above resolution :

That sections 3, 4, 5 and 10 of the Constitution be repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof :

3. At each annual communication the following officers, and five members of the Board of General Purposes, shall be elected, viz. :

By ballot of the Grand Lodge—

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master.

By ballot of the Grand Lodge after nomination as hereinafter provided—

The Right Worshipful the Grand Senior Warden.

“ “ “ Junior Warden.

“ “ “ Chaplain.

“ “ “ Treasurer.

“ “ “ Registrar.

“ “ “ Secretary.

Five members of the Board of General Purposes.

3a. Any member of Grand Lodge may nominate a brother who is eligible as a candidate for any of the above elective offices.

3b. No brother's name shall be submitted to ballot at any Communication for more than one of such offices.

3c. Any brother nominated for more than one of such elective offices may withdraw his name from either or all of such nominations at any time before the vote is taken, and in the event of his not so withdrawing his name shall only be submitted to ballot for the senior office to which he has been nominated to be elected.

3d. The place of holding the next annual Communication shall be decided by ballot.

3e. Nominations for any elective office for which nominations are required, and for the Board of General Purposes, and for the place of holding the next annual Communication, shall be by writing delivered to the Grand Secretary between the 15th day preceding the first day, and 6 o'clock in the evening of the first day of the Communication. The Grand Secretary shall cause a list of such nomin-

ations to be printed, and distributed before the opening of Grand Lodge on the second day of the Communication.

3f. The Grand Secretary shall cause to be printed such a number of ballot papers as will be sufficient for the purposes of the election.

3g. Every ballot paper shall contain :

a. A letter or figure showing the number or order of the ballot.

b. A list of the elective offices in rotation.

c. Properly designated spaces into which may be written : I. The names of brethren voted for ; II. The place of meeting of the next Communication voted for.

d. The number of votes cast with each ballot.

3h. The Grand Master or presiding officer shall after the close of grand lodge on the first day of the Communication appoint and announce the names of ten scrutineers (of whom the first appointed shall be chairman), not being Grand Lodge officers, or nominated for Grand Lodge office, or members of the Board of General Purposes. The duties of the scrutineers shall be to oversee and control the ballot, subject to the direction of the Grand Master, and to make a correct report to Grand Lodge of the result of each ballot. Before entering upon the duties of their office the scrutineers shall solemnly pledge themselves to perform the same truly and faithfully.

3i. The scrutineers shall meet at eleven o'clock on the morning of the second day of the communication in a convenient room adjoining the place of meeting of Grand Lodge. They shall act in sections of threes under the direction of the chairman, who shall exercise a general supervision and decide any doubtful ballots, each section being provided with a ballot box and a book for recording the name and lodge of each brother voting and the number of votes he is entitled to cast.

5j Each brother voting shall mark upon one of the ballot papers printed under the direction of the Grand Secretary, the names of the brother or brothers for whom he desires to vote for such elective offices, and for the Board, and the place he desires to vote for as the place for holding the next Communication, and after having exposed to the scrutineers the figures on his ballot indicating the number of votes cast by him, and having furnished such other information as may be required by the scrutineers he shall deposit his ballot paper in one of such boxes.

3k. No brother shall be permitted to deposit more than one ballot paper. Any brother depositing more than one ballot paper shall be guilty of a masonic offence and shall be dealt with as hereinafter provided.

3l. The Grand Master shall declare the first ballot closed at twelve o'clock noon of the second day of the Communication, or at such later hour as he may think fit, and the scrutineers shall thereupon count up the votes given upon the ballot papers, and the chairman of the scrutineers shall announce the result to Grand Lodge.

3m. If upon the first ballot a majority of all the votes cast be not cast for some one of the brothers nominated for an elective office, other than membership of the Board, another ballot shall be taken in respect of such office, and so on until the requisite majority has been obtained,

3n. The five brothers nominated for the Board of General Purposes who obtain the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be declared duly elected by the Board.

3o. The next Annual Communication shall be held at the place for which the majority of votes is cast on any ballot.

3p. All the ballot papers used at any election shall be preserved by the scrutineers, and shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary, who shall retain them for three months and then unless otherwise directed by the Grand Master shall destroy the same by fire.

3q. In case it is made to appear to the Grand Master that five members of Grand Lodge are of opinion that the votes at any election were improperly counted the Grand Master may direct such votes to be re-counted by the Grand Secretary in the presence two Past Grand Masters.

3r. The Grand Tyler shall be elected by open vote of Grand Lodge.

3s. The Right Worshipful the District Deputy Grand Masters shall be elected by a majority of the Past Masters and representatives of warranted lodges of the respective districts present at the Annual Communication, subject to the confirmation of the Grand Master.

3t. The Masonic punishment which shall be inflicted by Grand Lodge for the masonic offence referred to in clause 3k, after due trial and conviction by a committee to be appointed by the Grand Master, shall be either indefinite suspension, definite suspension, or reprimand.

3u. All the provisions of the Constitution which are inconsistent with this clause are hereby repealed.

That section 112 be amended by striking out the word "three" wherever the same occurs, and substituting the word "four" in lieu thereof, and by adding thereto the following subsections:

"112a. The committee on credentials shall cause to be registered the names of the brethren in attendance at the annual communication who are duly qualified to vote, and shall deliver to each of such brethren the ballot papers printed under the direction of the Grand Secretary.

"112b. The registration book shall be closed by the Committee on Credentials at 11 o'clock on the morning of the second day of the communication, and the committee shall immediately thereafter report to the Grand Master the names of the brethren registered and qualified to vote, and furnish to the chairman of the scrutineers a list in convenient form of the brethren who have registered and are qualified to vote."

Fraternally submitted,

WALTER BARWICK, *Chairman.*

It was moved by W. Bro. Walter Barwick, seconded by M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, and

Resolved,—That the report of the special Committee just read be received and adopted.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ASYLUM FUND.

R. W. Bro. J. E. Harding, on behalf of the Special Committee on the Asylum Fund, presented and read the following

REPORT :

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Canada :

At the last annual communication of this Grand Lodge, held at the City of Belleville, the Committee originally appointed to enquire into

the question of establishing an Asylum, as contemplated when the Asylum Fund was created, was re-appointed, and it was directed to report at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Committee caused to be sent to each lodge a circular in the following form :

To the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of *Lodge :*

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN,—At the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, held at Belleville, the Masonic Asylum Committee presented a report stating that it was then unable to report what was the best means of carrying into effect the lofty objects of those who were mainly instrumental in establishing the Asylum Fund. The Committee recommended that it be reappointed. The report was adopted and the Committee was directed to report at the next Annual Communication.

The Committee is of opinion that a Home should be established, provided that its maintenance when established is assured, and provided further that its maintenance is under no circumstances whatever to be allowed to interfere with the present benevolent grants made from the funds of the Grand Lodge.

The Committee, therefore, begs that you will bring the subject before your lodge at an early date, and that you will forward to the Secretary answers to the following questions :

1. Is it the opinion of your lodge that a Masonic Home should be established ?
2. If so, how much will your lodge undertake to provide annually as a contribution to the maintenance fund ?
3. What amounts will individual brethren within the jurisdiction of your lodge contribute annually ?
4. What worthy brethren in your jurisdiction would take advantage of the benefits of the Home if established ? (An answer to this question is desired after careful enquiry has been made, and you are also requested to forward the names of any such brethren).

The Grand Master and the Committee will esteem it a favor if your answers are forwarded to the Secretary of the Committee before the 1st of June in order that the Committee's report may be prepared for the approaching meeting of Grand Lodge.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. HARDING, *Chairman*.

Approved,
W. GIBSON, G. M.
15th March, 1897.

WALTER BARWICK, *Secretary*,
18 King St. West, Toronto.

No answer was made to the circular by 264 lodges.

To the first question 34 lodges stated that they were of opinion that a Masonic Home should be established, some of them qualifying this by stating that this was their opinion if the maintenance of the home was assured.

To this first question 42 lodges stated that they were of opinion that a Masonic Home should not be established.

Ten lodges asked for further information.

One lodge answered that it was of opinion that a Masonic Home should not be established unless the home provided for widow's and orphans.

One lodge answered that it was not at present in favor of a home, but if the home were established it would assist in its maintenance.

One lodge answered that the lodge had decided to leave the question in the hands of this Grand Lodge.

In answer to the second and third questions, annual subscriptions amounting to about \$500 have been guaranteed.

The fourth question was practically unanswered.

The committee recommend that a sub-committee be appointed in each district, consisting of the Deputy Grand Master of the district and two other brethren, to be elected at the district meetings; that these sub-committees should be requested to visit the individual lodges and present the scheme to the lodges with the view of securing the guaranty of a sufficient maintenance fund in the event of the home being established.

The committee is of opinion that it should be re-appointed with somewhat extended powers, so that it may cause to be prepared a proper document setting forth the history of the scheme, the best means of carrying into effect the objects of those who were instrumental in establishing the fund, and be further enabled to furnish answers to all enquiries and promote the idea of establishing a home in such manner as the committee deems advisable and that it be empowered to make such necessary expenditures in carrying these views into effect as may from time to time be sanctioned by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

JOHN E. HARDING, *Chairman.*

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by R. W. Bro. J. E. Harding, and

Resolved,—That the report of the special Committee on the Asylum Fund be received and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRESENTATION TO M. W. BRO. WM. R. WHITE, P. G. M.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Committee, presented and read the following

REPORT:

To the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M., of Canada, in the Province of Ontario:

In accordance with the resolution passed at the last annual Communication of Grand Lodge wherein it was decided to procure and present a suitable testimonial to M. W. Bro. W. R. White, in recognition of the exceedingly satisfactory manner in which he discharged the duties of the high and responsible office of Grand Master during the two years of his administration, we communicated with the Worshipful Master of Pembroke Lodge, Pembroke, who aided us materially in placing his lodge at our disposal for the purpose of making the presentation. A special meeting of the lodge was called for June 3rd, 1897. Representatives from many lodges were present at the meeting.

We procured a set of sterling silver and an illuminated address, which were presented to the illustrious brother on behalf of Grand Lodge.

The address read as follows :

To Most Worshipful Brethren William R. White, Esq., Q. C., Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

Upon your retiring from the office of Grand Master in July of last year, Grand Lodge appointed a committee to procure and present to you a suitable testimonial expressive of the high esteem in which you are held by your brethren, and of the admiration which they have for the impartial manner in which you presided over their deliberations, and discharged the duties of your high office.

With great pleasure we now proceed to carry out the wishes of Grand Lodge, and on its behalf we present for your acceptance the accompanying testimonial.

We assure you, Most Worshipful sir, that duties performed by you in many offices, during many years, are remembered and highly appreciated, and that the important services rendered to Grand Lodge during the past two years will never be forgotten. The patience and wisdom displayed by you during the lengthened negotiations resulting in the complete restoration of harmony among all the Masons of the jurisdiction; the strong common sense and sound judgment shown in the clearness and fairness of important decisions; the accessibility, loveliness and geniality of disposition shown by you as Grand Master, warrant us in assuring you that no one of your predecessors has in a larger measure secured the love and confidence of the brethren.

We pray that the Grand Architect of the universe will bless and prosper you and those dear to you, and that for very many years Grand Lodge may have the advantage of your wise counsel and mature judgment.

E. T. MALONE	} Committee.
J. ROSS ROBERTSON,	
HUGH MURRAY,	

WM. GIBSON,

J. J. MASON,

Grand Master.

Grand Secretary.

Dated the 3rd day of June, 1897.

M. W. Bro. White replied as follows :

Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren :—

I should be the most ungrateful man alive if I did not feel to the fullest extent the honor done me to-night. I value exceedingly and shall ever treasure the magnificent testimonial Grand Lodge has just presented to me. But I value much more the kindly feelings which prompted the gift and the expressions of good will which accompany it. To have occupied for two years the position of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, is an honor which might well satisfy any man's ambition. But to find as I do to-night that I have filled the office so much to the satisfaction of my brethren, affords me more pleasure than I can find words to express. As I am assured by your very flattering address that I have succeeded in gaining the love and confidence of my brethren, I trust I shall be enabled to so act in the future as to retain my hold upon both their affections and esteem. Rest assured that while life and health remain to me I shall never cease to take a lively interest in both the work of Grand Lodge and in the individual members thereof.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Hugh Murray, and

Resolved, —That the report of the Committee on the presentation of a testimonial to M. W. Bro. W. R. White be received and entered on the minutes.

CONSIDERATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION.

BUSINESS IN THE THIRD DEGREE.

It was moved by V. W. Bro. Robert Cuthbert, seconded by W. Bro. J. W. Jones :

“That all the business of the Waranted Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, with the exception of initiation and passing, shall be transacted in the third degree.”

The resolution was put to the Grand Lodge and declared *lost*.

CALLED OFF.

The Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, to meet again on Thursday, 22nd July, at 10 o'clock, forenoon.

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, 22nd July, A. D. 1897.

The Grand Lodge resumed labor at 10.30 a. m.

PRESENT.

W. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, on the Throne.

GRAND OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS OF REGRET.

Letters and telegrams were read from M. W. Bro. D. Spry, R. W. Bros. Kivas Tully, A. J. Oliver and L. A. Betts, and Bro. the Hon. Arthur S. Hardy, regretting their inability to be present at the communication of Grand Lodge.

A telegram from R. W. Bro. J. M. Horsfall, Grand Representative near the G. L. of Arkansas, conveying fraternal greetings was also read.

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES.

R. W. Bro. Wm. Roaf, on behalf of the Committee on Credentials of Representatives, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Credentials of Representatives of this Grand Lodge beg to report that there are 360 warranted lodges on the Grand Register; 169 are represented by their duly qualified officers; 86 are represented by proxy; 10 are not represented by proxy but have Past Masters present; 95 are unrepresented in any way. There are 565 names registered, having a total of 1,156 votes.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM ROAF, }
S. F. PASSMORE, } *Committee.*

It was moved by R. W. Bro. Wm. Roaf, seconded by W. Bro S. F. Passmore, and

Resolved,—That the Supplementary Report of the Committee on 'Credentials of Representatives and Proxies be received and adopted.

REPORT ON THE BOARD ON THE GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, on behalf of the Board, presented and read the following

REPORT :

The Board are enabled to congratulate Grand Lodge not only on the great prosperity which it enjoys, but on the zeal and enthusiasm shown by its members in establishing Free Masonry on a firm foundation in this Province. No greater proof of its prosperity can be produced than the great increase in the yearly receipts, notwithstanding the depression in commercial circles during the last few years.

It is gratifying to the Board to note the large amount of money expended for benevolence during the past year, and to express to the members of the Benevolent Board the appreciation of the craft on the careful and business like methods exercised by them in the administration of this the most important of Grand Lodge work. The recommendation made by the Grand Master, that the Board of Benevolence should be empowered to increase the yearly grants to the respective amounts mentioned in cases deserving special consideration, is hereby approved of.

The Board also approve of the Grand Master's recommendation, by which grants may be made for temporary relief, not exceeding in amount, the sum of forty dollars to each applicant during the interval between the meetings of Grand Lodge.

The Board fully endorse the views of the Grand Master on the success attending the work of the General Masonic Relief Association.

The attention of Grand Lodge is directed to the Grand Master's remarks concerning the long and faithful services of R. W. Bro. Kivas Tully in Craft matters in this Province. The suggestion is made that these services should be recognized by conferring on the Brother the rank of a Past Grand Master. The Board are of the opinion that the conferring of rank of such an exalted nature should be the exception rather than the rule, and should only be conferred in recognition of valuable services performed in the interest of Grand

Lodge. But as in the present instance the Grand Master only echoes the unanimous wish of the Craft in this Province, Grand Lodge is hereby recommended to confer the rank of a Past Grand Master on the esteemed and valuable brother.

The Board view with gratification the account of the number of lodges dedicated during the year.

The remarks of the Grand Master concerning the enquiries and report to be made when his services in the laying of corner stones are in requisition, should be carefully considered by the Craft.

The Board congratulates the Grand Master on the marked personal attention given by him to the lodges in the various districts during the past year. There can be no doubt that the great prosperity enjoyed by the lodges, and the harmony which prevails among the members of the craft, is in no small measure due to the great efforts put forth in their behalf by the Grand Master. His services are appreciated. He has endeared himself to the hearts of all. He stands to-day the best beloved and most popular member of Grand Lodge.

The Board strongly approve of the remarks of the Grand Master on the absolute necessity of each D. D. G. M. holding at least one Lodge of Instruction in his district during his year of office. A decided improvement in this respect will be looked for next year.

The Board recommend for approval and confirmation the appointment of representatives from the Grand Lodges of Michigan and New Mexico referred to in the address.

The action of the Grand Master in granting leave of absence to our efficient and well beloved Grand Secretary, receives the unanimous approval of the Board. He has labored faithfully in the discharge of his duties, and deserve his well-earned vacation. May the good wishes of our Grand Master attend him during his sojourn in the mother land.

The Board wish him every prosperity and a safe return to the Grand Lodge, of which he is such a valued member.

The thanks of Grand Lodge are due M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray and R. W. Bro. R. L. Gunn for the services they are rendering Grand Lodge during the absence of the Grand Secretary.

The unavoidable absence from Grand Lodge of M. W. Bro. Spry, Past Grand Master, is a matter of extreme regret. The Craftsmen throughout the length and breadth of this jurisdiction join with the Grand Master in prayer for the recovery from illness of our talented and esteemed brother.

The Board are heartily in accord with the patriotic sentiments expressed by the Grand Master. Her Majesty the Queen has peculiar claims to the esteem and regard of the Masonic fraternity, and these have always been cheerfully and faithfully accorded. We rejoice in her long and glorious reign, in which our beloved craft has so greatly prospered, and it is no lip loyalty that prompts us to say "God save the Queen."

All of which is fraternally submitted,

E. T. MALONE,

Chairman Sub-Committee on Grand Master's Address.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, seconded by M. W. Bro. Henry Robertson, and

Resolved,—That the Report of the Board of General Purposes on the Address of the M. W. the Grand Master be received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD RE YORK LODGE NO. 156.

M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson on behalf of the Board presented and read the following

REPORT.

The Board, through a special committee appointed to consider the matter, have taken into consideration the application of York Lodge No. 156, Eglinton, for concurrent jurisdiction with the lodges of the City of Toronto.

Eglinton is an incorporated town, four miles north of Toronto. The Board had before them a letter from the secretary of York Lodge, containing a resolution passed by the lodge, asking concurrent jurisdiction with the lodges in the City of Toronto.

A statement of the case was also furnished the committee by R.W. Bro. Aubrey White, D. D. G. M. of the Eleventh Masonic District.

The Board, after carefully considering the matter, see no sufficient reason why the prayer of York Lodge, No. 156, asking for this concurrent jurisdiction, should be granted.

Faternally submitted,

J. ROSS ROBERTSON,

Chairman.

It was moved by M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, seconded by R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone, and

Resolved, That the report of the Board on the application of York Lodge, No. 156, Eglinton, be received and adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The M. W. the Grand Master appointed scrutineers of the ballot for Grand Officers and elective members of the Board of General Purposes, and upon their report, the following were declared duly elected as office bearers for the ensuing term, namely :

M. W. Bro. Wm. Gibson, M. P.	Beamsville..	Grand Master.
R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone	Toronto.....	Deputy Grand Master
R. W. Bro. S. F. Passmore	Brantford...	Grand Senior Warden.
R. W. Bro. A. A. S. Ardagh	Toronto.....	Grand Junior Warden.
R. W. Bro. Rev. D. A. Bogart	Belleville ..	Grand Chaplain.
M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray	Hamilton ...	Grand Treasurer.
R. W. Bro. W. A. Bishop	Owen Sound	Grand Registrar.
R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason	Hamilton ..	Grand Secretary.

And by open vote of Grand Lodge

Bro. J. H. PritchardToronto.....Grand Tyler.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

R. W. Bro. Wm. Roaf, Toronto.
 R. W. Bro. W. T. Toner, Collingwood.
 R. W. Bro. J. E. Harding, Stratford.
 R. W. Bro. R. E. Wood, Peterboro.
 R. W. Bro. E. S. Wigle, Windsor.

Subsequently, the M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to announce the following appointments on the Board for the ensuing term, namely :

R. W. Bro. Jas. H. Burritt, Pembroke.
 R. W. Bro. Geo. C. Davis, London.
 R. W. Bro. R. L. Gunn, Hamilton.
 R. W. Bro. Thos. Sargant, Toronto.
 R. W. Bro. Aubrey White, Toronto.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

The following brethren were nominated by the representatives of lodges as District Deputy Grand Masters for their respective Districts, and were appointed by the M.W. the Grand Master, viz :

R. W. Bro. J. B. Rankin	Chatham	Erie	Dis. No. 1
R. W. Bro. Geo. Sutherland . . .	Thedford	St. Clair	" 2
R. W. Bro. W. C. Harris	Delaware	London	" 3
R. W. Bro. J. B. Tiernay	Blyth	South Huron	" 4
R. W. Bro. T. Pinkerton	Eden Grove . .	North Huron	" 5
R. W. Bro. T. R. Atkinson	Simcoe	Wilson	" 6
R. W. Bro. A. G. Campbell	Harriston . . .	Wellington	" 7
R. W. Bro. C. V. Emory, M. D.	Hamilton . . .	Hamilton	" 8
R. W. Bro. G. M. Aylsworth, M. D.	Collingwood . .	Georgian	" 9
R. W. Bro. C. H. Connor	St. Catharines	Niagara	" 10
R. W. Bro. T. W. Chapple	Uxbridge	Toronto	" 11
R. W. Bro. Edw. Fitzgerald . . .	Fenelon Falls	Ontario	" 12
R. W. Bro. A. R. Hargraft	Cobourg	Pr. Edward	" 13
R. W. Bro. Walter Macnee	Kingston	Frontenac	" 14
R. W. Bro. T. A. Stayner	Brockville . . .	St. Lawrence	" 15
R. W. Bro. G. E. Josephs, M. D.	Pembroke . . .	Ottawa	" 16
R. W. Bro. C. F. Farewell	Sault St. Marie	Algoma	" 17
R. W. Bro. W. H. Howey, M. D.	Sudbury	Nipissing	" 18

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

It was decided upon the third ballot that the next annual Communication of Grand Lodge should be held at the city of Toronto.

THANKS TO M. W. BRO. J. ROSS ROBERTSON.

It was moved by M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem, seconded by M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, and

Resolved,—That the Grand Lodge desires to express its appreciation of the many benevolent acts of M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, and particularly the generous assistance given by him to the hospital for sick children in the city of Toronto, and trusts that the noble example set by him will induce others to follow in his footsteps.

THANKS TO BRANTFORD BRETHREN.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. John S. Dewar, seconded by R. W. Bro. Geo. C. Davis, and

Resolved,—That the cordial thanks of the Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Committee of Management of the Brantford lodges for the satisfactory arrangements made for the holding of the present Annual Communication.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, assisted by M. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, proceeded with the installation and investiture of the newly elected officers, who were proclaimed and saluted with the customary Masonic honors.

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

At a subsequent date the M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to notify the Grand Secretary of the following appointments to office for the ensuing year, viz. :

- V. W. Bro. Thos. A. Simpson, Beamsville, Grand Senior Deacon.
- “ W. H. Sills, Chatham, Grand Junior Deacon.
- “ Robert Buck, Cobourg, Grand Superintendent of Works.
- “ H. P. Macdonell, Ottawa, Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- “ John McKnight, Toronto, Assistant Grand Secretary.
- “ Wm. Hyndman, Smith's Falls, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- “ Geo. Thompson, Uxbridge, Grand Sword Bearer.
- “ Chas. P. Sparling, Toronto, Grand Organist.

- V. W. Bro. W. T. Minens, Kingston, Assistant Grand Organist.
“ J. A. Sharp, Sudbury, Grand Pursuivant.
“ J. R. Hammond, Delaware, Grand Steward.
“ C. L. Merritt, Scotland, Grand Steward.
“ Thos. K. Pool, Thedford, Grand Steward.
“ J. M. Hamilton, Blyth, Grand Steward.
“ Harry Days, Lucknow, Grand Steward.
“ J. C. Brown, Orangeville, Grand Steward
“ S. Beaumont, Georgetown, Grand Steward.
“ John Wilson, Collingwood, Grand Steward.
“ W. F. Broughton, Niagara Falls, Grand Steward.
“ J. B. Powell, Whitby, Grand Steward.
“ W. A. Mackay, Renfrew, Grand Steward.
“ Foreshaw Day, Kingston, Grand Steward.
“ E. M. Donovan, Toronto, Grand Standard Bearer.
“ R. H. Knight, Sault Ste. Marie, Grand Standard
Bearer.
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THE GRAND LODGE CLOSED.

The business of Grand Lodge being ended, it was closed at 4 o'clock p. M., in *ample form*.

ATTEST :



J. J. Maxon

Grand Secretary.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES AS AT JUNE 24TH, 1897, AND

Lodges marked (a) hold their Installation of Officers on the Festival of St. John

No of Lodge.	Lodge.	Where Held.	Night of Meeting.	W. Master.	Secretary.
2	Niagara.....	Niagara	W. on or b.f.m	W. E. Lyall.....	P. E. Best.....
3	aThe An. St. John's	Kingston	1st Thursday..	R. D. Baker.....	John Kinghorn...
5	aSussex	Brockville ..	3rd Monday ..	Thomas Dowell ..	Geo. K. Dewey...
6	Barton	Hamilton	2d Monday	J. G. Gauld	S. G. Moore.....
7	Union	Grimby	Th. on or b.f.m	Richard Lipsit ..	David Sykes.....
9	aUnion	Napanee	F. on or b.f. m	Alfred Alexander ..	R. L. Henry.....
10	aNorfolk	Simcoe.....	Tu. on or b.f.m	Wm. P. Price.....	Wm. P. Kelly.....
11	aMoira	Belleville	W. on or b.f.m	Rev. D. F. Bogart ..	Hope McGinnis ..
14	aTrue Britons.....	Perth	1st Monday ..	Wm. T. Walker ..	W. A. Moore.....
15	St. George's.....	St. Cathar'n's	Tu. on or b.f.m	W. H. Merritt.....	A. N. Lindsay...
16	aSt. Andrew's.....	Toronto.....	2nd Tuesday ..	J. E. Hansford.....	J. T. Slater.....
17	St. John's.....	Cobourg	Tu. on or b.f.m	A. E. Hoskin.....	N. McCarthy
18	aPrince Edward...	Pictou	Th. on or b.f.m	George L. Hough ..	J. H. Murney.....
20	aSt. Johns.....	London	2nd Tuesday ..	Alex. Lindsay	M. D. Dawson...
21a	aSt. John's.....	Vankleek Hill	Tu. on or b.f.m	J. M. McCullough ..	J. A. Ferguson ..
22	aKing Solomon's...	Toronto	2d Thursday ..	A. A. Davis	A. R. Fraser.....
23	Richmond.....	Richm'd Hill	M. on or b.f.m	Thos. H. French ..	H. A. Nicholls...
24	aSt Francis.....	Smith's Falls	F. on or b.f.m	W. Hyndman.....	J. A. Houston
25	aIonic	Toronto	1st Tuesday ..	G. F. Shepley, Q.C.	S. B. Sykes
26	aOntario	Port Hope ..	3rd Thursday ..	R. C. Smith.....	W. J. Robertson ..
27	aStrict Observance	Hamilton	3rd Friday.....	G. W. Kappel.....	W. C. Morton.....
28	aMount Zion.....	Kemptville ..	W. b.f.m.....	Anson J Cochrane ..	W. H. Bottom.....
29	aUnited	Brighton	Th. on or b.f.m	T. D. Sandford ..	T. P. Keeler.....
30	aComposite.....	Whitby	1st Thursday ..	Philip Taylor.....	Robert Willis.....
31	aJerusalem.....	Bowman's lle	W. on or b.f.m	W. H. Foley	Jos. Pattinson...
32	aAmity	Dunnville ..	W. on or a.f.m	R. G. W. Conolly ..	Robert McKeever ..
33	aMaitland	Goderich	2nd Tuesday ..	A. S. Crystall.....	W. P. Rhynas
34	aThistle.....	Amherstb'rg	Tu. on or b.f.m	Henry A. Hackett ..	F. M. Falls
35	St John's.....	Cayuga	Th. on or a.f.m	D. Thompson.....	C. C. Gibson.....
37	aKing Hiram.....	Ingersoll	1st Friday	James P. Boles.....	H. Rowland
38	aTrent	Benton	Tuesday b.f.m	R. H. Spencer.....	C. K. Howell.....
39	aMount Zion.....	Brooklin	Tu. on or b.f.m	Fred Kerr.....	F. Scott.....
40	aSt. John's.....	Hamilton	3rd Thursday ..	John E. Riddell.....	W. J. McAlister..
41	aSt. George's.....	Kingsville ..	Th. on or b.f.m	Chas. J. Miller	Geo. Rumble.....
42	aSt. George's.....	London	1st Wedn. sdav	Henry Haymon.....	A. Ellis.....
43	King Solomon's...	Woodstock...	1st Tuesday ..	George H. Cheyne ..	Geo. J. Fraser...
44	aSt. Thomas.....	St. Thomas...	1st Thursday ..	J. S. Fraser	L. Slater.....
45	Brant	Brantford	2nd Tuesday ..	D. B. Wood	John E. Taylor...
46	aWellington.....	Chatham	1st Monday	F. F. Quinn	Alex. Gregory
47	aGreat Western...	Windsor	Th. on or b.f.m	Thos. Peters.....	I. P. McConnelly ..
48	aMadoc	Madoc	Tu. on or b.f.m	John R. Orr.....	R. T. Gray.....
50	aConsecon.....	Consecon	F. on or b.f.m	D. H. Rowe	W. R. McKibbin ..
52	Dalhousie.....	Ottawa	1st Tuesday ..	S. M. Rogers.....	C. S. Scott.....
54	aVoughan.....	Maple	Tu. on or b.f.m	John T. Saigon.....	Chas. H. Keffer...
55	aMerrickville.....	Merrickville	Tu. on or b.f.m	A. Langstaff.....	Thos. Colbert.....
56	aVictoria.....	Sarnia	1st Tuesday ..	A. Weir	W. F. B. Colter...
57	aHarmony.....	B'nbrook	W. on or b.f.m	Robt. Wright.....	J. F. Senn.....
58	aDoric	Ottawa	1st Friday	C. A. Abott	W. M. Woodburn ..
61	aAcacia	Hamilton	2nd Friday.....	R. V. Matthews ..	S. A. Morgan.....
62	aSt. Andrew's.....	Caledonia ..	W. on or b.f.m	J. L. Young	John Thompson ..
63	aSt. John's.....	Carleton Place	2d Wednesday ..	Robt. J. Morgan ..	J. Rushworth.....
64	aKilwinning.....	London	3rd Thursday ..	A. D. Hopkins.....	John Overell.....
65	aRehoboam.....	Toronto	1st Thursday ..	C. H. Mortimer.....	E. H. Briggs.....
66	aDurham	Newcastle...	Tu. on or b.f.m	Rev. J. Farncomb ..	E. Simmons.....
68	aSt. John's.....	Ingersoll	3rd Friday.....	Thos. Duggan.....	Wm. Ewart.....
69	Stirling	Stirling	Th. after f.m.	W. S. Ferguson.....	Geo. Bailely.....
72	Alma	Galt	Last Tuesday ..	Wm. Baird	Andrew J. Oliver ..
73	aSt. James.....	St. Mary's ..	1st Monday	Wm. O'Brien.....	R. J. McConnell..
74	aSt. James.....	Bethe	M. nearest f.m	C. H. Bissell.....	Syrenius Cole.....
75	aSt. John's	Toronto	1st Monday	Spencer Love.....	Arthur Hewitt...
76	aOxford	Woodstock...	2d Wednesday ..	R. W. Moote	Robt. Anderson...
77	aFaithful Breth'n	Lindsay	1st Friday	J. W. Britton.....	R. G. Corneil.....
78	aKing Hiram.....	Tilsonburg...	W. on or b.f.m	R. Armstrong	R. Clarke.....
79	aSimcoe.....	Bradford	F. on or b.f.m	Alex. E. Boddy	Alvin Orton
81	aSt John's.....	Mt. Brydges	Tu on or b.f.m	John Betts.....	Thomas C. West ..
82	St. John's.....	Paris	Tu. on or b.f.m	Franklind Smoke ..	John Wishart.....

LAST RETURNS PRIOR TO THE LEDGER BALANCES AT 31ST MAY, 1897.

the Evangelist; all others on that St. John the Baptist.

No. of Lodge.	Initia'd	Passed.	Rais'd.	Join'd.	Wid'n	Deaths.	S. N. P. D.	S. U. M. C.	Expe'd	Rest'd.	Total M'mb's	Last Ret'n's.	Ledger.		Paid Grand Lodge.
													Dr. Bal.	Cr. Bal.	
2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1				44	June '97			36 25
3	7	7	8	1	2	12	4				144	"			114 00
5	6	5	7	2	2	1	4			1	150	"			95 00
6	3	4	6	2	12	12					312	Dec. '96	1 50		300 00
7	3	3	2	1		1					58	June '97			32 00
9	1	1		3	3						81	"			23 75
10	6	8	6	2	6		1				84	"	24 50		50 25
11	8	9	12	1	3	18					147	"			103 50
14	7	7	5	2	1	1					92	"			63 75
15	1	2	3	1	1	6				1	77	"			46 50
16	10	9	13	4	9	1	4			1	213	"			273 25
17	2	2	2	1	1	1					72	"			51 75
18	10	8	8	2	3	3					175	"			121 25
20	21	18	16	2	1	1	13			1	104	Dec. '96			142 25
21a	5	5	5	2	2						43	June '97	50		27 00
22	7	10	8	3	2	3				1	167	"			265 75
23	1	1	1	1	1						26	"			22 50
24	4	4	4	1	1	2					90	"			51 50
25	4	4	3	6	11	3	2				192	"			135 75
26	4	4	5	1	2	1					64	"			67 75
27	7	8	10	2	1	1					237	"			227 50
28	1	1	1	1	1						25	Dec. '96			15 50
29	8	8	8	1	2						56	June '97			92 00
30	4	4	4	4							68	"			49 25
31		1	1	1	1	2					37	"		4 00	26 00
32	2	2	1	2	4	6					67	"	60 50		6 00
33	7	7	9	2	2	2					101	"			65 35
34	2	2	1								39	"			20 00
35	7	7	7	2				1			60	June '96		6 00	56 00
37		1		5		7				1	59	June '97			37 00
38	3	3	3		1	7				1	61	"			45 00
39		2	1	1							23	"			27 00
40	15	15	19	4	7	5	9			3	347	"			267 25
41	5	4	4		2	3				1	71	"			44 75
42	10	9	7	1	3	1	3			1	108	Dec. '96	64 50		69 00
43	2	2	2				4				88	June '96		2 00	58 00
44	9	8	10	5	2	4	3				133	June '97			94 25
45	3	4	5		3					1	107	"	30 25		
46	9	10	7	2	2	2				1	116	"			82 25
47	14	11	11	4		6					141	"			102 50
48	3	3		3	1					2	82	Dec. '96			38 00
50	4	4	3	1	2						36	June '97			37 50
52	6	7	5	1	2		3				110	"	1 00		75 25
54	1	1	1	1	1						41	"	1 00		23 25
55	2	2	2	1	2		1			2	50	"			36 75
56	15	14	13	4	6	4				4	70	"			58 25
57	6	6	4		2					1	51	"			31 50
58	4	5	6	1	2		2				97	"	10 00		65 25
61	14	18	18	3	3	4	4			1	238	"			243 50
62	4	4	5	2	1						44	"	11 75		55 50
63	6	5	9	1	3		3				99	Dec '96			73 00
64	4	4	3	1	4		2				146	"			176 00
65	9	4	2	1	4	4	8				205	June '97		4 00	124 25
66				1	2						28	" '96			14 50
68	9	13	13		2	8					64	June '97			63 50
69	1			5	17						56	Dec. '96			61 00
72	3	1	2	3	4		3			2	94	June '97			46 00
73	2	2	3		1	6				1	65	"			50 00
74	5	5	5	1	2		2				35	"	16 00		26 50
75	22	19	14	3	9	2	2			1	198	"			159 50
76	5	6	5	3	3	1	4			1	96	"			56 00
77	2	1	2	1	3		4	1		2	86	"			59 00
78	19	17	15			2					124	Dec. '96			115 75
79			1				2				28	June '97			30 00
81	2	2	1		2	5				1	50	"			29 75
82	5	4	3		1	1					52	"	25 75		

RETURN OF SUBORDINATE LODGES AS AT 24TH JUNE, 1897, AND

No. of Lodge.	Lodge.	Where Held.	Night of Meeting.	W. Master.	Secretary.
83	aBeaver.....	Strathroy...	F. on or a.f.m	A. E. Alexander	R. F. Richardson
84	aClinton.....	Clinton.....	F. on or a.f.m	T. C. Bruce.....	E. McLean.....
85	aRising Sun.....	Athens.....	Th.on or b.f.m	Albert Moulton...	Jas. Ross.....
86	aWilson.....	Toionto.....	3rd Tuesday..	J. W. Johnson...	J. A. Carveth.....
87	Markham Union...	Markham...	F. on or b.f.m	W. J. Carnaghan	R. A. Mason.....
83	St. George's.....	Owen Sound..	W. on or b.f.m	John M. Campbell	John Rutherford
90	aManito.....	Collingwood..	W. on or a.f.m	Robert Hughes...	Hugh A. Currie...
91	aColborne.....	Colborne.....	F. on or b.f.m	H. Brown.....	Geo. Keyes.....
92	aCatarqui.....	Kingston.....	2d Wednesday	John R. Smeaton	Robt. Hendry, Jr
93	aNorthern Light...	Kincardine...	1st Wednesday	F. H. Collins.....	R. D. Hall.....
94	aSt. Mark's.....	Port Stanley	2d Tuesday....	R. J. Mothersill...	W. M. Berry....
96	aCorinthian.....	Barrie.....	1st Thursday.	John B. McPhie	Alfred Wilkes....
97	aSharon.....	Sharon.....	Tu.on or b.f.m	H. G. Hoag.....	B. F. Pearson....
98	True Blue.....	Albion.....	F. on or b.f.m	John York.....	Robt. Roberts...
99	aTuscan.....	Newmarket...	2d Wednesday	C. G. Ross.....	Alfred Webb....
100	Valley.....	Dundas.....	M. on or b.f.m	William Forest...	F. A. Latshaw...
101	aCorinthian.....	Peterboro'...	W. on or b.f.m	Arthur Stevenson	John Beatty.....
103	aMaple Leaf.....	S Catharines	Last Thurs'dy	James Merriman	Fred. R. Parnell
104	St. John's.....	Norwich.....	W. on or a.f.m	Alfred Kenning...	I. L. Farrington
105	aSt. Mark's.....	N. Falls S'th.	Tu.on or b.f.m	Jas. G. Robertson	J. C. Hull.....
106	aBurford.....	Burford.....	W. on or b.f.m	Harmon Stuart...	C. H. Pratt.....
107	St. Paul's.....	Lambeth.....	W. on or b.f.m	C. Canworth.....	Hy. Poole.....
108	Blenheim.....	Princeton....	W. on or a.f.m	C. P. Collins.....	J. E. Richardson
109	aAlbion.....	Har'owsmith	F. on or b.f.m	Jos. R. Godfrey...	James Cooke....
110	aCentral.....	Prescott.....	1st Tuesday...	Allan J. Smith...	H. H. Wells.....
113	aWilson.....	Waterford....	W. on or b.f.m	L. L. Sovereign...	E. G. Christie....
114	aHope.....	Port Hope....	1st Friday.....	Jas. Taylor.....	T. H. Bell.....
115	aIvy.....	Beamsville...	Tu on or b.f.m	T. A. Simpson...	John Gibson.....
116	aCassia.....	Thedford....	M. on or b.f.m	Rev. H. Currie...	T. K. Poole.....
118	Union.....	Schomberg...	M. on or b.f.m	A. Wilkinson...	W. J. Brereton...
119	aMaple Leaf.....	Bath.....	M. before f.m	H. S. Northmore	Max. Robinson...
120	W'arren.....	Fingal.....	Tu.on or b.f.m	Geo. E. Norman.	Frank R. Else..
121	aDoric.....	Brantford....	3rd Friday.....	F. G. Fawkes.....	W. A. Robinson
122	aRenfrew.....	Renfrew.....	1st Monday....	N. W. Cleary.....	H. S. Bawden...
123	aThe Belleville...	Belleville....	1st Thursday..	Col. W. N. Ponton	W. H. Adams.....
125	aCornwall.....	Cornwall.....	1st Tuesday...	N. J. Fraid.....	J. Macfarlane...
126	aGolden Rule.....	Cam'bellford	Fr.on or b.f.m	C. E. Dunk.....	James R. McRae
127	aFrank.....	Frankford....	M. before f.m	J. A. Consul.....	Chester Clark...
128	aPembroke.....	Pembroke....	1st Thursday..	J. H. Leach.....	J. H. Reeves.....
129	The Rising Sun...	Aurora.....	1st Friday.....	J. C. Leadbetter	D. A. Radcliffe..
131	aSt. Lawrence...	Souham'ton	Tu.on or a.f.m	D. McAulay.....	C. R. Vanstone...
133	aLebanon Forest..	Exeter.....	M. on or b. f. m	Jos. Davis.....	M. Eacrett.....
135	aSt. Clair.....	Milton.....	Th.on or b.f.m	John Dearing....	R. Coats.....
136	Richardson.....	Stonffville...	W. on or b.f.m	W. J. Starke.....	James Hand.....
137	aPythagoras.....	Meaford.....	F. nearest f.m	S. Carson.....	J. Patterson.....
139	Lebanon.....	Oshawa.....	2nd Tuesday..	P. H. Punshon...	Jas. McCaw.....
140	aMalahide.....	Aylmer.....	W. on or b.f.m	H. A. Ambridge...	C. T. Burdick...
141	aTudor.....	Mitchell.....	Tu.on or b.f.m	Wm. Babb.....	Geo. S. Goodeve
142	aExcelsior.....	Morrisburg...	F. on or b.f.m	Geo. F. Bradfield	G. H. S. Kennedy
143	aFriendly Brothers	Iroquois.....	Wednes' b.f.m	J. H. Currie.....	Jas. W. Tindale
144	aTecumseh.....	Stratford....	3rd Friday.....	W. J. Mooney....	A. E. Neil.....
145	aJ. B. Hall.....	Millbrook....	2d Thursday..	R. H. Hunter.....	R. E. Doak.....
146	aPrince of Wales..	Newburgh....	Wednes' b.f.m	D. A. Nesbitt.....	G. A. Aylesworth
147	aMississippi.....	Almonte.....	1st Friday.....	W. C. Pollock....	Robt. Pollock...
148	aCivil Service...	Ottawa.....	2d Tuesday...	E. L. Learoyd...	W. J. Beatty....
149	aErie.....	Port Dover...	M. on or b.f.m	J. A. Innes.....	J. Varey.....
151	aThe Grand River	Berlin.....	2d Tuesday...	Henry Wildfong	A. Oelschlagel...
153	aBurns.....	Wyoming.....	Th.on or b.f.m	R. S. Pritchard...	J. M. Wilson.....
154	aIrving.....	Lucan.....	Th.on or b.f.m	W. Ellwood.....	Jas. Irwin.....
155	aPeterboro'.....	Peterboro'...	1st Friday.....	W. B. Bamford...	R. W. McFadden
156	aYork.....	N. Toronto...	3rd Friday.....	C. C. Norris.....	W. E. Hoffman...
157	Simpson.....	Newboro'....	Tu.on or b.f.m	Levi S. Lewis...	Josh H. Butler...
158	aAlexandra.....	Oil Springs...	Thursd'ya.f.m	Hugh A. Beaton	W. S. Duggan...
159	aGoodwood.....	Richmond....	W. on or b.f.m	R. H. Grant.....	A. E. McCordick
161	aPercy.....	Warkworth...	Wednes' b.f.m	W. H. Love.....	W. Baker.....
162	Forest.....	Wroxeter....	M. on or b.f.m	J. A. Barnard...	Theos. Brown, P.T

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LAST RETURNS PRIOR TO THE LEDGER BALANCES AT 31ST MAY, 1897.—Continued

No. of Lodge.	Initia'd	Passed.	Raised.	Joined.	With- drawn.	Deaths	S.N. P.D.	S.U. M.C.	Expe'd	Rest'd.	Total M'nb's	Last Ret'ns	Ledger.		Paid Grand Lodge.
													Dr. Bal.	Cr. Bal.	
83	1	1	1	.....	7	3	6	.....	.....	1	77	June '97	.....	.....	46 00
84	4	4	4	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65	"	.....	.....	51 50
85	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60	"	.....	.....	41 50
86	9	21	17	2	4	5	9	.....	.....	.....	137	"	.....	.....	198 25
87	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	"	.....	.....	17 50
88	7	7	7	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	76	"	.....	.....	56 00
90	7	6	5	1	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	110	"	.....	.....	75 00
91	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	6	.....	.....	1	74	"	.....	.....	62 75
92	4	5	7	.....	5	3	6	.....	.....	1	105	Dec. '96	.....	.....	138 75
93	3	4	4	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	94	June '97	.....	.....	55 50
94	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	6	.....	.....	1	25	"	52 50	.....	6 00
96	7	9	6	5	3	2	2	.....	.....	2	122	"	.....	3 50	78 00
97	4	2	2	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	45	"	.....	.....	55 50
98	4	4	7	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	2	46	June '96	.....	.....	41 50
99	1	1	1	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43	June '97	28 00	.....	30 00
100	5	5	6	3	5	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	66	"	.....	.....	42 00
101	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	63	Dec. '96	.....	.....	48 00
103	4	4	5	1	.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	100	June '97	.....	.....	64 00
104	5	4	5	.....	1	.....	25	.....	.....	.....	79	"	.....	.....	57 50
105	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61	June '96	.....	2 00	25 25
106	7	6	5	1	3	1	1	.....	.....	.....	67	June '97	.....	.....	65 75
107	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	51	"	.....	2 00	37 00
108	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	25	"	.....	.....	16 50
109	4	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49	"	.....	.....	29 50
110	7	7	7	3	5	3	3	.....	.....	.....	87	June '97	.....	.....	58 50
113	3	1	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	47	"	.....	.....	26 50
114	4	4	6	1	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	78	"	.....	.....	57 00
115	5	2	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	"	.....	.....	63 50
116	1	1	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	"	1 00	.....	26 75
118	1	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	"	.....	.....	20 00
119	1	1	1	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	25	"	.....	.....	26 25
120	1	1	2	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	31	"	.....	.....	20 00
121	6	7	6	3	2	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	142	"	.....	.....	91 75
122	14	13	12	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	"	.....	.....	82 00
123	8	8	6	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	142	"	.....	.....	79 50
125	4	4	3	1	4	1	.....	.....	.....	1	59	"	.....	.....	50 50
126	2	3	3	3	8	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	45	"	.....	.....	34 00
127	6	6	6	.....	2	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	74	"	63 75	.....	15 00
128	9	10	8	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	116	"	"	.....	.....	75 25
129	3	3	3	4	3	2	3	.....	.....	1	54	"	48 50	.....	46 25
131	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	39	Dec. '96	9 75	.....	9 75
133	2	2	1	.....	.....	1	4	.....	.....	.....	72	June '97	.....	.....	45 75
135	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53	June '94	.....	.....	.....
136	4	3	3	4	1	1	4	.....	.....	.....	41	June '97	.....	.....	33 50
137	3	3	2	.....	1	1	6	.....	.....	.....	41	Dec. '96	.....	.....	27 50
139	1	2	2	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	66	June '97	.....	.....	35 25
140	8	7	5	6	6	1	1	.....	.....	3	86	"	.....	.....	38 00
141	3	2	1	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	2	73	Dec. '96	.....	.....	25 00
142	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	June '96	2 00	.....	28 50
143	7	8	7	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	71	Dec. '96	.....	.....	52 50
144	17	15	13	1	6	1	4	.....	.....	1	115	June '97	.....	.....	100 25
145	4	4	4	.....	5	1	3	.....	.....	.....	53	"	.....	17 00	15 00
146	.....	1	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	34	"	.....	.....	20 75
147	2	2	2	1	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	65	Dec. '96	.....	3 00	1 00
148	5	5	4	1	1	.....	4	.....	.....	2	76	"	.....	.....	63 50
149	.....	.....	.....	2	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	51	June '97	.....	.....	27 25
151	5	5	4	1	1	1	4	.....	.....	.....	86	"	.....	.....	55 50
153	6	6	6	.....	6	1	6	.....	.....	1	63	"	45 50	.....	14 00
154	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	1	9	.....	.....	.....	45	Dec. '96	.....	.....	40 50
155	1	3	4	3	2	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	105	June '97	.....	.....	78 75
156	.....	.....	1	3	6	1	.....	.....	.....	1	103	"	25 75	.....	83 50
157	3	3	6	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	57	"	.....	.....	43 00
158	5	7	6	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	4	46	"	.....	.....	33 00
159	2	3	2	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	66	Dec. '96	.....	.....	.....
161	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	64	June '97	.....	.....	70 00
162	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	"	.....	.....	15 75

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES AS AT 24TH JUNE, 1897, AND

No. of Lodge.	Lodge.	Where Held.	Night of Meeting.	W. Master.	Secretary.
164	aStar in the East.	Wellington...	Tu.on or b.f.m	C.S.Cunningham	J. D. Wilson
165	aBurlington	Burlington...	W. on or b.f.m	J. Kerns	R. H. Watson.....
166	aWentworth	Stoney Creek	M. on or b.f.m	W. St. John	R. H. Dewar.....
168	aMerritt	Welland	M. on or b.f.m	W. E. Barber.....	Geo. Wells.....
169	aMacnab	Pt. Colborne	Tu.on or b.f.m	C. J. Augustine...	John Cook
170	aBritannia	Seaforth	1st Monday...	Robt. Scarlett ..	J. O. Rose
171	aPrince of Wales	Lawre'ceSt'n	F. on or a.f.m	D. Paterson.....	J. W. Brown.....
172	aAyr	Ayr	Tu.on or b.f.m	Jas. Cassie	A. J. Reid
174	aWalsingham	Port Rowan..	Th.on or b.f.m	J. E. Riddle	Jas. Ryan
177	The Builders'	Ottawa.....	2d Friday.....	E. A. Bradshaw...	H. H. Cairns ...
178	aPlattsville	Plattsville...	F. on or b.f.m	D. A. Hoggarth...	W. R. Henderson
180	aSpeed	Guelph	1st Tuesday...	Alex. Robertson	Wm. Parker
181	aOriental	Port Burwell	Tu.on or b.f.m	M. G. Burwell...	D. M. Chute.....
184	aOld Light	Lucknow.....	Th.on or b.f.m	Jas. Bryan	Harry Days
185	aEnniskillen	York	M. on or b.f.m	Sydney N. Davis.	Jas. Peart
186	aPlantagenet	Plantagenet.	M. on or b.f.m	John Smith	W.A.Chamberl'n
190	aBelmont	Belmont	F. on or b.f.m	J.A.Meldrum,MD	John Boyd.....
192	aOrillia	Orillia	F. on or b.f.m	Thos. B. Lafferty	J. W. Blair.....
193	aScotland	Scotland.....	M. on or b.f.m	Elliot Epps	Jas. Malcolm.....
194	aPetrolia	Petrolia	2d Wednesday	W. H. Hunt.....	Matthew Smith..
195	aThe Tuscan	London	1st Monday...	J. Higginbottom.	R. B. Hungerford
196	aMadawaska	Arnprior	2d Monday...	R. A. Jamieson...	J. W. Grey
197	aSaugeen	Walkerton ..	2d Tuesday...	Chas. Pettipiece.	W. G. Stovel
200	St. Alban's	MountForest	F. on or b.f.m	J. S. Ireland.....	R. O. Kilgour...
201	aLeeds	Gananoque...	Tu.on or b.f.m	W. G. Hinds	W. Y. Boyd
203	Irvine	Elora	3rd Friday....	W. A. P. tie	Thos. Godfrey...
205	New Dominion	N. Hamburg	M. on or a.f.m	Jas. Smith	Louis Ritz
207	aLancaster	Lancaster ..	W. on or b.f.m	A. D. Cameron ...	W. N. McGillis..
209a	St. John's	London	1st Friday....	A. McDonald	John Siddons ..
209	Evergreen	Lanark	1st Tuesday...	John McFarlane.	Chris. M. Forbes
212	aElysian	Gar'n Island	1st Monday...	John Kennedy ..	R. Raymond.....
215	aLake	Ameliasburg	M. on or b.f.m	W. H. C. Roblin.	Geo. E. Roblin..
216	aHarris	Orangeville...	Tu.on or b.f.m	Robt. Mann	D. McPherson...
217	aFrederick	Delhi	M. on or b.f.m	John Dowswell...	A. W. Cryser... ..
218	aStevenson	Toronto	2d Monday...	John Watson.....	W. J. Watson
219	aCredit	Georgetown..	F. on or b.f.m	J. G. Harley	T. J. Wheeler.....
220	aZeradatha	Uxbridge	M. on or b.f.m	H. J. Gould	John G. Vicars ..
221	aMountain	Thorold	W. on or b.f.m	R. G. Hoover	W. T. Fish
222	aMarmora	Marmora	Tuesd'y b.f.m	Thos. Mawson ...	D. Mitchell
223	aNorwood	Norwood	Tu.on or b.f.m	Wm. Hutchinson	W.H.Stephenson
224	aZurich	Hensall	Th.on or b.f.m	Geo. T. McKay ...	Jas. Bonthron...
225	aBernard	Listowel	F. on or b.f.m	Wm. Irwin	J. J. Foster
228	aPrince Arthur	Odesa	M. on or a.f.m	A. A. Caton	Robt. Bennett...
229	aIonic	Brampton...	3rd Tuesday...	R. J. Hurry	A. Morton
230	Kerr	Barrie	4th Monday...	W. J. Sutherland	F. W. Reed
231	Lodge of Fidelity	Ottawa.....	3rd Thursday	H. W. Wilson	C. J. Pearson
232	aCameron	Dutton	W. on or b.f.m	A. S. Backus.....	Jas. Pool
233	aDoric	Park Hill	Tu.on or b.f.m	L. N. Phippen ..	D. N. McLeod ..
234	aBeaver	Clarksburg...	Tu.on or b.f.m	Fred D. Kent	J. D. Dickinson...
235	aAldworth	Paisley	F. on or b.f.m	F. E. Sheppard...	W. R. Keyes
236	aManitoba	Cookstown...	Tu.on or a.f.m	T. S. Patterson...	W. J. Phillips...
237	Vienna	Vienna	F. on or b.f.m	C. M. Wilson	Geo Thornton ..
238	aHavelock	Watford	Tu.on or b.f.m	Alex. Saunders...	T. L. Swift
239	aTweed	Tweed	F. on or b.f.m	J. D. Huyck	C. W. Huyck
242	aMacy	Mallorytown	M. on or b.f.m	M. S. Guild	R. W. Tennant...
243	aSt George	St. George...	Th.on or b.f.m	Chas. Haas	R. G. Lawrason.
245	aTecumseh	Thamesville.	Tu.on or b.f.m	Jas. Brown	W. B. Albertson..
247	aAshlar	Toronto	4th Tuesday...	R. N. Miller	A. F. Webster
249	aCaledonian	Midland	W. on or b.f.m	S. A. Milligan...	F. G. Wallbridge
250	aThistle	Embro	Th.on or b.f.m	R. A. Duncan	R. H. Green.....
253	aMinden	Kingston...	1st Tuesday...	W. M. Waldren...	Thos. D. Minnes.
254	aClifton	Niag. Falls.	1st Thursday...	F. F. Wood	Alex. Gray
255	aSydenham	Dresden	2d Thursday...	Sam. Bentley	D. V. Hicks
256	aFarran's Point	Farran's Pt.	W. on or b.f.m	E. D. Ault	W. H. Ault
257	aGalt	Galt	1st Tuesday...	Wm. Cowan.....	D. Murray

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LAST RETURNS PRIOR TO THE LEDGER BALANCES AT 31ST MAY, 1897.—Continued.

No. of Lodge.	Initia'd	Passed.	Raised.	Joined.	With- drawn	Deaths	S. N. P. D.	S. U. M. C.	Exp'd	Rest'd.	Total M'm'bs	Last Ret'ns	Ledger.		Paid Gran Lodge.
													Dr. Bal.	Cr. Bal.	
164	3	4	3	3	2	1				2	51	June '97			\$27 25
165	9	9	8	1	1	1	2				51	"	\$33 50		45 75
166	10	8	6	1	1	1					75	Dec. '96			73 00
168	1				4	1	4				61	June '97		4 00	38 75
169		2	2	1	1	1					54	Dec. '96			54 25
170	1	2	2		2		5			2	74	June '97			46 00
171											42	June '95		2 00	
172											32	June '96			15 00
174	1	1	2				4			1	49	June '97			31 25
177	4	9	9	1	3						111	"			118 75
178	2	2	2	1	3	1					45	"			29 50
180	5	4	2		3	3	2			1	67	"			37 25
181					2		2				25	"			14 00
184	3	2	2	2	6						43	"			34 50
185											28	Dec. '95	9 50		
186	1	1	1		1						21	June '97			14 00
190	2	2	2	1	2	2	2				17	"			12 25
192		6	5			1	6				108	"	30 25		80 50
193	7	7	6	1	1	4					59	"			44 75
194	2	2	2	3		1					90	"			65 25
195	1	1	3	1	3		2		1		73	"	19 00		22 50
136	14	16	15			2					77	"	2 00		72 00
197	1	1	1	1	2		2				42	"			25 00
200	2	4	3		1						45	"	25 75		18 25
201	11	8	7		8	1				3	89	Dec. '96	25 25		35 00
203	3	2	2		3	2					42	June '97			24 50
205	5	5	6	1	1	1					35	"	2 00		34 50
207	7	6	3	2	3		7				35	"	22 00		20 00
209a	9	6	8	1	2	3	8			1	180	"			142 00
209					3						33	"			38 50
212				1							30	"			16 00
215	2	4	2		1		1			1	61	"			35 50
216	2	1	1		2	4	17			1	103	Dec. '96			
217	2	2	1	1		1	4				41	June '97			52 50
218	8	8	10	1	4	4				2	125	"			103 75
219	6	6	6	3	2	2					59	Dec. '96	59 75		1 00
220	3	2	2	1	1	1					64	June '97			36 75
221	1	1	1	1			4			1	60	"			51 75
222	3	1	1		2		2				43	"			27 00
223					7						14	Dec. '96	2 00		10 00
224	1	1	1		1						36	June '97			21 50
225	5	6	6	1	2	1	2				75	"			46 75
228	5	6	6		2					1	35	"			24 50
229	1	2	3		1	1	2				71	"			50 00
230	3	3	2		4	2					90	"			67 50
231	7	5	9	4	2		2				81	"			76 50
232	1	1	1								39	Dec. '96			21 50
233	2	2			1	1	3				40	"		5 00	30 75
234	2	3	3			1	1				50	June '97			34 50
235	1	1	1		8		2				37	"			31 50
236	1	1	1	1	4	1	5	1			23	"			
237	1	1	1		2	2					39	"			27 50
238											64	June '96			40 00
239	3	3	2		3		3				50	Dec. '96			44 50
242											34	June '95			1 00
243	1	1	1		2						44	June '97			24 75
245	2	2	2		1						53	"			50 00
247	19	18	21	4	8	2	10			1	155	"			103 50
249	9	9	7	1			1			1	55	"			50 25
250		1	1		1	1	1				27	Dec. '96			10 50
253	5	5	5	3	2						73	June '97			42 25
254	3	3	3	4	2	2	2				91	"			61 75
255	2	1	1		1						53	Dec. '96			27 00
256	2	1			1	2					70	June '97			51 50
257					2						79	"			48 50

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES AS AT 24TH JUNE, 1897. AND

No. of Lodge.	Lodge.	Where Held.	Night of Meeting.	W. Master.	Secretary.
258	Guelph	Guelph	2d Tuesday...	Geo. J. Brill...	Alex. Cordiner...
260	aWashington	Petrolia	1st Wednesday	Alex. McQuien...	J. M. Hattie.....
261	aOak Branch	Innerkip	Th.on or b.f.m	W. H. Nesbit...	John McFarlane
262	aHarriston	Harriston	2d Monday...	John Joel.....	Richd. Dowling..
263	aForest	Forest	W. on or b.f.m	P. D. McCallum.	P. W. Campbell
264	aChaudiere	Ottawa	4th Tuesday...	R. Fair	Jas. Peterkin...
265	aPatterson	Thornhill	Th.on or b.f.m	J. C. Steele.....	G. A. Langstaff...
266	aNorthern Light...	Stayner	Tu.on or b.f.m	A. J. F. Sullivan.	W. A. Doner.....
267	aParthenon	Chatham	1st Wednesday	J. Winterburn...	Chas. R. Cape...
268	aVerulam	Bobcaygeon.	F. on or b.f.m	F. Minus	W. J. Read.....
269	aBrougham Union	Brougham	W. on or a.f.m	W. G. Barnes.....	D. K. Beaton....
270	aCedar	Oshawa	4th Tuesday...	T. E. Kaiser	L. K. Murton....
271	aWellington	Erin	2d Wednesday	T. E. Carbery...	Chas Overland..
272	aSeymour	Ancaster	W. on or b.f.m	G. B. Smith	G. D. Farmer, M.D
274	aKent	Blenheim	M. on or b.f.m	W. H. Jamison...	S. G. Stovy.....
276	aTeeswater	Teeswater	F. on or b.f.m	D. Stewart	H. B. O'Connor...
277	aSeymour	P. Dalhousie.	W. on or b.f.m	Robt. Walton	Alph. Kelley.....
278	aMystic	Roslin	Thur b.f.m....	E. B. Mullett...	W. G. Gillespie...
279	aNew Hope	Hespler	W. on or b.f.m	Thos. Shaw.....	C. M. Schultz...
282	aLorne	Glencoe	Th. on or b.f.m	W. J. French.....	Edwin Gale.....
283	aEureka	Belleville	W. a. f. m....	Wm. Alford.....	W. J. Diamond...
284	aSt. John's	Brussels	Tu. on or b.f.m	Sam'l Wilton...	J. A. Creighton...
285	aSeven Star	Alliston	W. on or b.f.m	J. D. Shipley...	H. McA. Wright..
286	aWingham	Wingham	1st Tuesday...	Rich. Vanstone...	J. A. Morton.....
287	aShuniah	Port Arthur..	1st Tuesday...	J. W. Morgan...	T. J. C. Rodden...
289	aDoric	Lobo	Th. on or b.f.m	Allen D. Graham	P. L. Graham, MD
290	aLeamington	Leamington..	Tu. on or b.f.m	R. Miller, M. D..	M. G. Hethering'n
291	aDufferin	W. Flamboro	Th. on or b.f.m	A. E. Terryberry	Alfred Jones.....
292	aRobertson	King	M. on or b.f.m	E. J. Davis.....	Chas. Patterson..
293	aT. Roy. Sol. Moth.	Jerusal'm Pa	1st Wednesday	W. H. Kayat....	Kalil Saadeh, MD
294	aMoore	Courtright ..	Th. on or b.f.m	Wm. Brown.....	Alvin C. Neil.....
295	aConestogo	Drayton	Tu. on or a.f.m	Jos. Crozier.....	T. Flath
296	aTemple	St. Catharin's	Last Wednes...	Chas. O. Beam...	A. J. McGregor...
297	aPreston	Preston	F. on or b.f.m	M. H. Rolling...	Jos. Beltzer.....
299	aVictoria	Centreville..	Th. on or b.f.m	John Lockridge..	T. V. Anderson...
300	aMount Olivet	Thorndale ..	Tu. on or b.f.m	J. D. Salmon...	M. N. Wright.....
302	aSt. David's	St. Thomas..	3rd Thursday.	Edwin T. Green.	Fred. S. Lewis...
303	aBlyth	Blyth	Tu. on or a.f.m	J. M. Ross.....	Jas. M. Hamilton
304	aMinerva	Stroud	Tu. on or b.f.m	Harry Gregg.....	C. E. Chantler...
305	aHumber	Weston	W. on or b.f.m	Joe Barker	Robt. Cowling...
306	aDurham	Durham	Tu. on or b.f.m	Thos. Brown...	Geo. Russell.....
307	aArkona	Akrona	Th. on or b.f.m	E. M. Copeland..	Frank Hooper...
309	aMorning Star...	Smith's Hill.	W. on or b.f.m	John Wilson.....	Wm. Young.....
311	aBlackwood	Woodbridge..	F. on or b.f.m	Frank Smith.....	T. A. Agar
312	aPnyx	Wallaceburg	M. on or b.f.m	Alex. McKelvey..	E. E. Parker.....
313	aClementi	Lakefield ..	1st Tuesday...	Robt. J. Munro...	F. Q. Dench.....
314	aBlair	Palmerston..	F. after f. m..	J. A. Greenlaw...	H. Clements.....
315	aClifford	Clifford	3rd Monday...	Herman Graef...	A. S. Allan.....
316	aDoric	Toronto	3d Thursday...	H. H. Williams...	H. E. Griffith...
318	aWilmot	Baden	F. on or a.f.m	J. R. Livingston.	Alf. Kaufman.....
319	aHiram	Hagersville..	Th. on or b.f.m	Jas. McNicol...	John H. Forman
320	aChester ville	Chester ville.	M. on or b.f.m	W. A. Brown...	J. G. Gillespie...
321	aWalker	Acton West..	M. on or b.f.m	Wm. Shark.....	W. R. Kenney...
322	aNorth Star	Owen Sound.	W. a. f. m....	J. W. Redfern...	W. H. Wright...
323	aAlvinston	Alvinston	W. on or b.f.m	J. T. H. McKay...	Fred. B. Cummer
324	aTemple	Hamilton	2d Tuesday...	A. M. Cunningham	Sturt Livingston
325	aOrono	Orono	Th. on or b.f.m	E. W. Cornish...	Wm. Armstrong
326	aZetland	Toronto	4th Friday...	J. H. Macabe...	R. A. Donald....
327	aThe Hammond...	Wardsville..	3rd Tuesday...	J. F. McKillop...	D. Johnson.....
328	aIonic	Napier	F. on or b.f.m	Henry Gough...	W. H. Sutherland
329	aKing Solomon...	Jarvis	F. on or b.f.m	Jas. Duncan.....	David Hill.....
330	aCorinthian	London East	1st Tuesday...	A. T. Cooper...	H. C. Simpson...
331	aFordwich	Fordwich	Th. on or b.f.m	Alex. Wyness...	A. M. Spence....
332	aStratford	Stratford	2nd Monday...	W. H. Neil.....	Fred. J. Scarff...
333	aPrince Arthur...	Stratford	F. on or b.f.m	Roger McGill...	W. J. Ballamy...
334	aPrince Arthur...	Arthur	Tu. on or b.f.m	T. J. Phillips...	Alex. Graham...

LAST RETURNS PRIOR TO THE LEDGER BALANCES AT 31ST MAY, 1897.—Continued.

No. of Lodge.	Initia'd	Passed.	Raised.	Joined.	With- drawn	Deaths	S. N. P. D.	S. U. M. C.	Exp'd	Rest'd.	Total Memb's	Last Ret'ns	Ledger.		Paid Grand Lodge.
													Dr. Bal.	Cr. Bal.	
258	5	3	1	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	1	77	June '97	.....	.....	\$43 50
260	3	6	6	.....	1	1	5	.....	.....	.....	72	"	\$20 00	.....	43 00
261	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	"	11 00	.....	36 00
262	2	2	3	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	49	"	.....	.....	28 25
263	4	4	4	.....	2	3	1	.....	.....	1	56	"	.....	.....	40 50
264	19	24	24	.....	4	4	1	.....	.....	.....	99	"	.....	.....	154 75
265	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	27	"	5 75	.....	28 25
266	3	3	3	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	37	"	.....	.....	8 00
267	5	3	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	61	"	.....	.....	30 50
268	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	"	.....	.....	17 00
269	1	1	2	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	42	"	.....	.....	22 25
270	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	9	.....	.....	.....	59	Dec. '96	.....	.....	50 75
271	3	3	4	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	42	June '97	.....	.....	27 50
272	7	5	4	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	44	"	.....	.....	32 25
274	4	4	4	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	69	"	.....	.....	26 00
276	1	1	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	"	.....	.....	21 00
277	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	34	Dec. '96	.....	.....	19 00
278	1	1	1	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	1	23	June '97	.....	.....	11 50
279	2	1	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	56	"	.....	.....	31 50
282	5	6	5	2	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	42	"	.....	.....	37 25
283	5	3	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	66	"	\$4 00	.....	49 25
284	2	2	2	1	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	52	"	.....	.....	34 25
285	2	2	1	1	5	1	1	.....	.....	.....	28	"	.....	.....	35 00
286	7	6	6	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	"	.....	.....	42 25
287	3	4	2	1	3	2	4	.....	.....	1	94	Dec. '96	.....	.....	89 25
289	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	49	"	.....	.....	17 50
290	9	6	6	3	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85	June '97	.....	.....	64 00
291	6	6	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43	"	4 00	.....	51 00
292	.....	1	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44	"	.....	.....	31 25
293	9	9	9	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	June '96	.....	.....	46 00
294	2	4	5	1	4	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	26	June '97	.....	.....	30 50
295	1	1	2	.....	1	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	27	"	33 50	.....	1 00
296	2	4	5	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57	"	.....	.....	43 25
297	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	"	.....	.....	18 75
299	1	1	1	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	39	"	10 00	.....	23 00
300	2	1	1	.....	1	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	25	"	.....	.....	.....
302	6	6	7	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	2	94	"	23 50	.....	62 00
303	5	5	5	.....	2	1	5	.....	.....	.....	46	"	.....	.....	34 50
304	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	"	.....	.....	9 75
305	2	2	1	1	3	1	.....	.....	.....	1	41	"	.....	.....	24 75
306	.....	1	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	36	"	.....	.....	23 75
307	1	1	1	1	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39	"	.....	.....	29 75
309	2	1	1	.....	3	1	.....	1	.....	.....	51	"	.....	.....	.....
311	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	Dec. '96	.....	.....	10 25
312	3	.....	1	1	4	2	.....	.....	.....	1	85	June '97	.....	.....	52 00
313	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39	"	.....	.....	27 74
314	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	51	"	.....	.....	38 00
315	2	2	2	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	"	.....	.....	18 00
316	1	1	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	126	Dec. '96	.....	.....	43 75
318	2	2	1	.....	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	32	June '97	3 25	.....	17 00
319	2	2	4	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	31	"	.....	.....	28 00
320	7	7	5	.....	3	1	4	.....	.....	.....	73	"	.....	.....	55 25
321	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	22	"	.....	.....	12 50
322	5	6	6	.....	2	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	"	.....	.....	58 75
323	1	1	2	.....	1	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	54	"	.....	3 00	51 00
324	22	17	19	4	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	235	"	5 00	.....	153 50
325	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	2	.....	.....	2	32	"	.....	.....	24 25
326	14	8	15	2	12	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	246	"	.....	.....	168 50
327	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	"	.....	.....	12 50
328	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	Dec. '96	.....	.....	.....
329	4	3	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45	June '97	.....	.....	23 25
330	8	10	12	3	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	100	"	10 00	.....	161 25
331	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	24	"	.....	.....	18 50
332	15	13	12	.....	4	2	.....	1	.....	.....	133	"	.....	.....	111 50
333	1	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	"	23 75	.....	1 00
334	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	June '95	15 00	.....	.....

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES AS AT 24TH JUNE, 1897, AND

No. of Lodge.	Lodge.	Where Held.	Night of Meeting.	W. Master.	Secretary.
336	aHighgate	Highgate	F. on or b.f.m	R. B. Teetzel...	D.P.McPhail,MD
337	aMyrtle	Pt. Robinson	Tu.on or b.f.m	C. B. Bennett...	Thos. Sowersby..
338	aDufferin	Wellandport	Tu.on or b.f.m	Hanson Gracey..	J. R. Goring.....
339	aOrient	Toronto.....	1st Tuesday...	A. Gillies.....	H. Tolhurst.....
341	aBruce.....	Tiverton.....	Tu.on or b.f.m	John S. Evans...	W. J. Chambers,
343	Georgina.....	Toronto.....	1st Saturday	Fred. W. Flett...	G. O. Merson.....
344	Merrill.....	Dorch'st'rS'n	Th.on or b.f.m	J. C. McNevin...	W. J. Shaw.....
345	Nilestown.....	Nilestown.....	Tu.on or b.t.m	Joseph Wilson...	J. McDougall....
346	aThe Occident.....	Toronto.....	3d Wednesday	T. W. Barber....	John Lillie.....
347	aMercer.....	Fergus.....	1st Friday.....	Jas. A. Goodale..	James Phillip....
348	aGeorgian.....	Pen'tang'she	1st Thursday...	C. A. Nettleton...	J. J. Buckley.....
352	aGranite.....	Parry Sound..	W. on or b.f.m	Thos. Kennedy...	D. Macfarlane...
354	aBrock.....	Cannington...	W. b.f.m.....	Thos. Foster.....	Joseph Aft.....
356	aRiver Park.....	Streetsville..	Tu.on or b.f.m	W. G. Caugdon...	Wm. Taylor.....
357	Waterdown.....	Millgrove.....	Tu.on or b.f.m	R. Flatt.....	B. G. Ryckman...
358	aDeleware Valley.	Delaware ..	F. on or b.f.m	John Ackland...	R.R. Montgom'ry
359	aVittoria	Vittoria.....	F. on or b.f.m	R. S. Stalker.....	C. A. Duncan.....
360	aMuskoka.....	Bracebridge..	Tu.on or b.f.m	A. A. Mahaffy...	Francis P. Warne
361	aWaverley.....	Guelph.....	4th Monday...	F. B. Fenwick...	Chas. Law.....
362	aMaple Leaf.....	Tara.....	M. on or b.f.m	And w Hamilton	Wm. J. Fawcett...
364	aDufferin.....	Melbourne...	W. on or b.f.m	J. M. Carnealle..	John Cooper.....
367	aSt. George.....	Toronto.....	1st Friday.....	J. J. Thompson...	W. J. Guy.....
368	Salem.....	Brockville...	2nd Monday...	R. S. Stayner....	E. A. Geiger.....
369	aMimico.....	Lambton M.	Tu.on or b.f.m	Wm. P. Gray.....	Emerson Bull....
370	Harmony.....	Delta.....	W. on or b.f.m	Omer Brown.....	J. N. Phelps.....
371	aPrince of Wales..	Ottawa.....	4th Friday.....	J. J. Mulligan...	C. W. Close.....
372	aPalmer.....	Bridgeburg...	Tu.on or a.f.m	A. B. Hurrell....	J. G. Watts.....
373	aCopestone.....	Welland.....	1st Thursday...	Chas. Stewart...	W. G. Somerville
374	aKeene.....	Keene.....	Th.on or b.f.m	R. J. McCamus...	J. M. Shaw, M.D.
375	aLorne.....	Omeme.....	1st Thursday...	F. J. Bradd, M.D.	Hugh Murray....
376	aUnity.....	Huntsville...	2d Wednesday	J. W. Wart, M.D	E. J. Ecclestone
377	aLorne.....	Shelburne...	1st Friday.....	Jos. McKitterick	Wm. Hogg.....
378	aKing Solomon's..	London West	2nd Friday.....	John Hobbs.....	W. Nicholl.....
379	aMiddlesex.....	Bryanston...	W.on or b.f.m	Wm. Johnson....	Wm. Smbert.....
380	aUnion.....	London.....	2nd Monday...	W. C. Fitzgerald	Jos. Ward.....
382	Doric.....	Hamilton...	3rd Monday...	Chas. Smith.....	C. V. Emory, M.D.
383	aHenderson.....	W. Winch'ter	1st Tuesday...	Geo. Johnson....	Clinton Boyle...
384	aAlpha.....	Toronto.....	1st Thursday...	J. W. St. John...	E. J. Voss.....
385	aSpry.....	Beeton.....	W.on or a.f.m	Wm. Nichol.....	J. R. Croft.....
386	aMcCoil.....	West Lorne..	Tu on or b.f.m	J. D. Campbell...	J. A. Cameron...
387	aLansdowne.....	Lansdowne..	Th.on or b.f.m	John M. Shaw...	C. J. Young.....
388	Henderson.....	Ilderton.....	M.on or b.f.m	Jos. H. Robson...	E. Ironside.....
389	aCrystal Fountain	N. Augusta..	W.on or b.f.m	W. H. Waddell...	G. W. Chapman...
390	aFlorence.....	Florence.....	Th.on or b.f.m	J. W. Clarke.....	J. D. McMillan...
391	aHoward.....	Ridgetown...	M. on or b.f.m	Wm. F. Mattice...	W. H. Ellsworth
392	aHuron.....	Camlachie...	W. on or b.f.m	Thos. Crafford...	A. Trusler.....
393	aForest.....	Chesley.....	1st Tuesday...	W. A. Armer.....	Jas. C. Brown...
394	King Solomon.....	Thamesford..	W. on or b.f.m	James Clubb....	W. W. Day.....
395	Parvain.....	Comber.....	Th.on or b.f.m	Jas. Kerr.....	C. L. MacDermott
396	aCedar.....	Wiarton.....	Tu.on or b.f.m	Wm. J. Ferguson	A. W. Barnes....
397	aLeopold.....	Bridgen.....	W.on or b.f.m	John A. Doly....	W. J. Ward.....
398	Victoria.....	Vict'r'a Road	W.on or b.f.m	Ed. Mosgrove...	Alfred Taylor...
399	Moffat.....	Harrietsville	W.on or b.f.m	C. B. Adams.....	J. J. Jolly.....
400	aOakville.....	Oakville.....	Tu.on or b.f.m	W. H. Robinson.	C. A. Bradbury...
401	aCraig.....	Deseronto...	1st Tuesday...	W. J. Malley....	E. Townsend....
402	aCentral.....	Essex Centre	W. on or b.f.m	A. O. Stimers....	J. F. McQueen...
403	aWindsor.....	Windsor.....	1st Friday.....	J. H. Taylor.....	Jas. C. Guillot...
404	aLorne.....	Tamworth...	F. on or a.f.m	Geo. H. Dean....	Jas. Aylesworth.
405	Mattawa.....	Mattawa.....	1st Tuesday...	D. A. Dunlop....	A. N. Grasswell..
406	aThe Spry.....	Fenel'n Falls	W. on or b.f.m	Ed. Fitzgerald...	Rev W. Farncomb
408	Murray.....	Beaverton...	Tu. on or b.f.m	H. Logan.....	P. D. McArthur
409	aGolden Rule.....	Gravenhurst	M. on or b.f.m	H. M. Delong...	J. C. Davidson...
410	aZeta.....	Toronto.....	4th Friday.....	John C. Gray....	D. C. Little.....
411	aRodney.....	Rodney.....	Th.on or b.f.m	J. T. Stinson...	Edwin A. Hugill
412	aKeystone.....	S. St. Marie..	Tu. on or b.f.m	M. McFadden...	J. B. Way.....
413	aNaphtali.....	Tilb'y Cent'e	Tu. on or b.f.m	A. A. Wilson.....	W. A. Hutton...

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LAST RETURNS PRIOR TO THE LEDGER BALANCES AT 31st MAY, 1897.—Continued.

No. of Lodge.	Initia'd	Passed.	Raise'd	Join e	With-drawn	Deaths	S. N. P. D.	S. U. M. C.	Exp'd	Rest'd.	Total M' m' b's	Last Ret'r's	Ledger.		Paid Grand Lodge.
													Dr. Bal.	Cr. Bal	
336	4	2	1			1	3				47	June '97	\$36 00		\$24 00
337	1	1									27	Dec. '96	14 00		25 00
338						1				1	19	June '97	7 00		
339	8	6	6		2		4				163	Dec. '96	130 25		38 00
341	1	1	1		5		5		1		44	June '97			28 50
343	36	34	34	13	1	1					122	Dec. '96	1 00		108 75
344	3	2	2								26	June '97			24 00
345	1	1			1					1	24	"			18 50
346	1	2	2		3	2	2			1	128	"	3 00		73 00
347											44	Dec. '95			24 00
348			1		2		2				22	Dec. '96			4 25
352	3	6	7		1					1	66	June '97			50 75
354	3	3	2	1	2	1	1			2	47	"	1 25		34 00
356		1	1		1	2					32	"			22 50
357				2	9	2					35	"			1 00
358	1	1			3		3				39	"	22 50		1 50
359	1	1	2		1					1	35	"			18 25
360		1	2		2						47	"	1 00		28 50
361	4	5	5	1	3		15				87	"			117 50
362	3	5	3		2						41	"			37 50
364											31	Dec. '93	26 50		
367	6	6	5	5	3		13				118	June '97			69 50
368	4	5	5	1	3	1					101	"			70 25
369	2	1	1				6				45	"	1 00		27 50
370	8	4	6		2	2				1	66	"		82 00	
371	5	4	3		1	2	6				65	"			55 25
372	3	3	2		2	2					45	"			39 25
373					2		2				35	"			19 25
374	4	4	4		2						28	June '96			17 00
375	10	9	8	1	1	1	1				38	June '97		5 25	
376	13	15	10	2	7		2			2	65	"			63 25
377	1	1	1	1		1					50	"	22 25		24 50
378	6	5	5		2		1				67	"		4 00	46 00
379	1	1	1			1					24	Dec. '96			15 00
380	12	12	12	1	1		13			4	85	"			94 50
382	12	11	10	2	1		11			1	155	June '97			108 25
383	3	2	2			1					38	Dec. '96			31 25
384	11	12	10	2	7	2	2				162	June '97			161 25
385	4	4	4								29	"			20 75
386											38	June '95			23 50
387											25	June '96			8 50
388				1	1		12			1	31	June '97			20 25
389	2	2	3			1					43	"			23 75
390											18	Dec. '96			12 25
391	2	3	3	2	7	1	7				62	June '97		2 00	102 50
392	7	6	6		3						50	"			39 75
393	2	2	1		5						29	"			17 50
394	3	4	4			1	1				53	"			36 25
395	2	1	1	1	3						40	"			21 00
396	3	3	4	1	3		2				52	"			37 50
397	1	1	1	2			4				33	Dec. '96			22 50
398	5	4	4	2	1		1			2	27	June '97			23 25
399	1	1	1		3						18	Dec. '96			9 25
400	4	4	4	1	1	1	8			1	81	June '97			54 50
401	2	2	2	3	3	1	5				45	"	27 00		27 00
402	1		1		1	1					50	Dec. '96	1 00		54 75
403	9	11	15	4	1	2	2			1	108	June '97			87 75
404	1	1	1		2						37	Dec. '96			37 75
405	4	3	7	1	5	1				1	83	June '97			79 00
406	4	2	1		1	1	1				35	"			34 00
408				1	1		5				30	"			20 50
409	1	1		1	2	1					37	"			24 50
410	9	7	6	4	7	1	7			2	62	"	18 00		90 00
411											34	June '95			
412	3	1	1	2	8	1	7			1	73	June '97			60 25
413	18	14	7	1		1			1	1	70	"		10 00	55 50

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES AS AT 24TH JUNE, 1897, AND

No. of Lodge.	Lodge.	Where Held.	Night of Meeting.	W. Master.	Secretary.
414	Pequonga.....	Rat Portage..	1st Wednesday	J. A. McCrossan	J. E. Bird.....
415	aFort William.....	Fort William	W. on or b.f.m	Jas. H. Perry.....	A. McDougall.....
416	Lyn.....	Lyn.....	W. on or b.f.m	M. Brown.....	C. M. Taylor.....
417	aKeewatin.....	Keewat'n Mts	1st Friday.....	Jas. Maxwell.....	John McLeod.....
418	aMaxville.....	Maxville.....	2nd Tuesday...	M. D. Carther...	T. W. Munro.....
419	aBismarck.....	Pt. Edward..	2nd Monday...	Thos. Pearson...	B. F. George.....
420	aNipissing.....	North Bay...	2nd Thursday	A. McMurchy.....	H. D. Leask.....
421	aScott.....	Grand Valley	W. on or b.f.m	H. Huffman.....	J. A. V. Preston..
422	aStar of the East	Bothwell.....	W. on or b.f.m	W. A. Banghart	Chas. E. Bayley
423	aStrong.....	Sundridge...	3d Wednesday	W. D. Auldjo.....	W. Dobson.....
424	aDoric.....	Pickering.....	Th. on or b.f.m	A. T. Elliott.....	John R. Winter
425	aSt. Clair.....	Sombra.....	Tu. on or b.f.m	Hy. Roebuck.....	G. W. Smith.....
426	aStanley.....	W. Tor Junc	1st Tuesday...	J. R. Royce.....	A. J. Anderson...
427	aNickel.....	Sudbury.....	1st Wednesday	Chris. R. Reid...	Gus Harwood....
428	Fidelity.....	Port Perry...	F. on or b.f.m	E. D. Holliday...	J. A. Underhill..
429	aPort Elgin.....	Port Elgin...	Th. on or b.f.m	August Smith...	W. J. Cameron...
430	aAcacia.....	East Toronto	3rd Monday...	John Parsell.....	W. J. A. Carnahan
431	aMoravian.....	Eden Grove...	F. on or a.f.m	Geo. Sirrs.....	Geo. A. Ray.....
432	aHanover.....	Hanover.....	F. on or b.f.m	John Mitchell...	Jno. Sutherland.
433	Bonnechere.....	Eganville.....	2nd Monday...	Wm. F. Timm....	Carol E. Weber...
434	Algonquin.....	Emsdale.....	Tu. on or a.f.m	E. A. Munn.....	Robt. McConkey
435	Havelock.....	Havelock.....	F. on or b.f.m	John Maidens...	W. S. Dodd.....
436	Burns.....	Hepworth...	T. on or a.f.m	C. H. Witthun...	E. W. Geddes.....
437	Tuscan.....	Sarnia.....	3d Wednesday	F. J. Winlow.....	W. White.....
438	Harmony.....	Toronto.....	4th Monday...	Geo. C. Patterson	John G. Gibson..
439	Alexandria.....	Alexandria...	1st Wednesday	Lean'r C. Harris	D. E. McMillen...
440	Arcadia.....	Minden.....	F. on or b.f.m	B. J. M. Freer...	
441	Westport.....	Westport.....	1st Friday.....	Jas. G. Gorrell...	C. H. Whitworth
U.D	Dyment.....	Thessalon...	Th on or b.f.m	Wm. L. Nichols	
U.D	Powassen.....	Powassen.....	2nd Friday...	Wm. Carmichael	

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LAST RETURNS PRIOR TO THE LEDGER BALANCES AT 31ST MAY, 1897.—Continued.

No. of Lodge.	Initia'd	Passed.	Raised.	Joined.	With- drawn.	Deaths	S. N. P. D.	S. U. M. C.	Exp'd	Rest'd.	Total M'emb's	Last Retr'n's	Ledger.		Paid Grand Lodge.
													Dr. Bal.	Cr. Bal.	
414	5	3	2	4	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	96	June '97	2 00	.....	\$25 50
415	5	5	5	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	.....	.....	48	Dec. '96	1 00	.....	16 00
416	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	June '97	.....	.....	22 50
417	1	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	"	.....	.....	26 00
418	5	5	3	.....	4	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	46	"	8 00	.....	67 00
419	2	2	2	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	69	"	.....	.....	45 25
420	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	81	Dec. '96	.....	.....	44 00
421	4	4	5	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	39	June '97	.....	.....	39 75
422	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27	"	.....	.....	26 00
423	6	7	7	1	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	46	Dec. '96	18 00	.....	.....
424	2	2	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	June '97	.....	.....	18 25
425	4	4	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	40	"	.....	.....	47 00
426	11	14	9	6	3	1	3	.....	.....	.....	100	"	.....	.....	107 00
427	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92	June '96	.....	.....	80 75
428	5	6	6	1	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	34	June '97	2 00	.....	18 75
429	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	"	.....	.....	22 25
430	6	5	5	1	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	72	"	.....	.....	87 00
431	6	6	4	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	"	.....	.....	26 50
432	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	June '95	10 00	.....	.....
433	6	6	6	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	June '97	2 00	.....	24 50
434	4	3	5	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	27	"	.....	.....	28 50
435	8	8	10	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45	"	.....	.....	40 75
436	2	2	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	"	6 75	.....	19 25
437	8	10	9	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	"	.....	.....	52 25
438	8	7	6	10	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	89	Dec. '96	.....	.....	47 75
439	10	10	8	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	June '97	.....	.....	3 00
440	5	5	4	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	"	.....	.....	29 75
441	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	None	.....	.....	20 00
U D	8	4	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	June '97	.....	.....	23 00
U D	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	None	.....	.....	20 00
												Inter'st	Gen'ral	Fund...	3290 32
												"	Asy'um	"	448 00
												P. M. Certifi-	cates....	.....	9 00
												Dispen- ations	.....	.....	45 00
												Miscel- laneous	.....	.....	121 75
	1418	1393	1348	340	665	287	722	5	3	124	23398		1251 00	115 00	20828 82

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

LIST OF LODGES—BY DISTRICTS.

ERIE DISTRICT, NO. 1. (22.)

D.D.G.M.—R. W. Bro. J. B. Rankin, Chatham.

No. 34, Thistle.....	Amherstburg	No. 327, The Hammond...	Wardsville
" 41, St. George.....	Kingsville	" 336, Highgate.....	Highgate
" 46, Wellington.....	Chatham	" 386, McColl.....	West Lorne
" 47, Great Western.....	Windsor	" 390, Florence.....	Florence
" 245, Tecumseh.....	Thamesville	" 391, Howard.....	Ridgetown
" 255, Sydenham.....	Dresden	" 395, Parvaim.....	Comber
" 267, Parthenon.....	Chatham	" 402, Central.....	Essex Centre
" 274, Kent.....	Blenheim	" 403, Windsor.....	Windsor
" 282, Lorne.....	Glencoe	" 411, Rodney.....	Rodney
" 290, Leamington.....	Leamington	" 413, Naphtali.....	Tilbury Centre
" 312, Pnyx.....	Wallaceburg	" 422, Star of the East.....	Bothwell

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT, NO. 2. (20.)

D.D.G.M.—R. W. Bro. Geo. Sutherland, Thedford.

No. 56, Victoria.....	Sarnia	No. 294, Moore.....	Courtright
" 81, St. John's.....	Mt. Brydges	" 307, Arkona.....	Arkona
" 83, Beaver.....	Strathroy	" 323, Alvinston.....	Alvinston
" 116, Cassia.....	Thedford	" 328, Ionic.....	Napier
" 153, Burns.....	Wyoming	" 364, Dufferin.....	Melbourne
" 158, Alexandra.....	Oil Springs	" 392, Huron.....	Camlachie
" 194, Petrolia.....	Petrolia	" 397, Leopold.....	Brigden
" 238, Havelock.....	Watford	" 419, Bismarck.....	Point Edward
" 260, Washington.....	Petrolia	" 425, St. Clair.....	Sombra
" 261, Forest.....	Forest	" 437, Tuscan.....	Sarnia

LONDON DISTRICT, NO. 3. (26.)

D.D.G.M.—R. W. Bro. W. C. Harris, Delaware.

No. 20, St. John's.....	London	No. 289, Doric.....	Lobo
" 42, St. George's.....	London	" 300, Mt. Olivet.....	Thorndale
" 44, St. Thomas.....	St. Thomas	" 302, St. David's.....	St. Thomas
" 64, Kilwinning.....	London	" 330, Corinthian.....	London East
" 94, St. Mark's.....	Port Stanley	" 344, Merrill.....	Dorchester Station
" 107, St. Paul's.....	Lambeth	" 345, Nilestown.....	Nilestown
" 120, Warren.....	Fingal	" 358, Delaware Valley.....	Delaware
" 140, Malahide.....	Aylmer	" 378, King Solomon's.....	London W
" 171, Prince of Wales.....	Lawrence	" 379, Middlesex.....	Bryanston
" 190, Belmont.....	Belmont	" 380, Union.....	London
" 195, Tuscan.....	London	" 388, Henderson.....	Iderton
" 209a, St. John's.....	London	" 394, King Solomon.....	Thamesford
" 230, Cameroon.....	Dutton	" 399, Moffat.....	Harrietsville

SOUTH HURON DISTRICT, NO. 4. (15.)

D.D.G.M.—R. W. Bro. J. B. Tiernay, Blyth.

No. 33, Maitland.....	Goderich	No. 205, New Domini'n.....	New Hamb'g
" 73, St. James'.....	St. Mary's	" 224, Zurich.....	Hensall
" 84, Clinton.....	Clinton	" 233, Doric.....	Park Hill
" 133, Lebanon Forest.....	Exeter	" 303, Blyth.....	Blyth
" 141, Tudor.....	Mitchell	" 309, Morning Star.....	Smith's Hill
" 144, Tecumseh.....	Stratford	" 318, Wilmot.....	Baden
" 154, Irving.....	Lucan	" 332, Stratford.....	Stratford
" 170, Britannia.....	Seaforth		

NORTH HURON DISTRICT, NO. 5. (19.)

D.D.G.M.—R. W. Bro. T. Pinkerton, Eden Grove.

No. 93, Northern Light.....	Kincardine	No. 331, Fordwich.....	Fordwich
" 131, St. Lawrence.....	Southampton	" 341, Bruce.....	Tiverton
" 162, Forest.....	Wroxeter	" 362, Maple Leaf.....	Tara
" 184, Old Light.....	Lucknow	" 393, Forest.....	Chesley
" 197, Saugeen.....	Walkerton	" 396, Cedar.....	Warton
" 225, Bernard.....	Listowel	" 429, Port Elgin.....	Port Elgin
" 235, Aldworth.....	Paisley	" 431, Moravian.....	Eden Grove
" 276, Teeswater.....	Teeswater	" 432, Hanover.....	Hanover
" 284, St. John's.....	Brussels	" 436, Burns.....	Hepworth
" 286, Wingham.....	Wingham		

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WILSON DISTRICT, NO. 6. (21.)

D.D.G.M.—R. W. Bro. T. R. Atkinson, Simcoe. 11

No. 10, Norfolk.....	Simcoe	No. 149, Erie.....	Port Dover
" 37, King Hiram.....	Ingersoll	" 174, Walsingham.....	Port Rowan
" 43, King Solomon.....	Woodstock	" 178, Flattsville.....	Plattsville
" 68, St. John's.....	Ingersoll	" 181, Oriental.....	Port Burwell
" 76, Oxford.....	Woodstock	" 193, Scotland.....	Scotland
" 78, King Hiram.....	Tilsenburg	" 217, Frederick.....	Delhi
" 82, St. John's.....	Paris	" 237, Vienna.....	Vienna
" 104, St. John's.....	Norwich	" 250, Thistle.....	Embro
" 106, Burford.....	Burford	" 261, Oak Branch.....	Innerkip
" 108, Blenheim.....	Princeton	" 369, Vittoria.....	Vittoria
" 113, Wilson.....	Waterford		

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, NO. 7. (21.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. A. G. Campbell, Harriston.

No. 72, Alma.....	Galt	No. 279, New Hope.....	Hespeler
" 151, The Grand River.....	Berlin	" 295, Conestogo.....	Drayton
" 172, Ayr.....	Ayr	" 297, Preston.....	Preston
" 180, Speed.....	Guelph	" 306, Durham.....	Durham
" 200, St. Alban's.....	Mount Forest	" 314, Blar.....	Palmerston
" 203, Irvine.....	Elora	" 315, Clifford.....	Clifford
" 216, Harris.....	Orangeville	" 334, Prince Arthur.....	Arthur
" 277, Galt.....	Galt	" 347, Mercer.....	Fergus
" 258, Guelph.....	Guelph	" 361, Waverley.....	Guelph
" 232, Harriston.....	Harriston	" 421, Scott.....	Grand Valley
" 271, Wellington.....	Erin		

HAMILTON DISTRICT, NO. 8. (21.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. C. V. Emory, M. D., Hamilton.

No. 6, The Bar on.....	Hamilton	No. 166, Wentworth.....	Stoney Creek
" 27, Strict Observance.....	Hamilton	" 219, Credit.....	Georgetown
" 40, St. John's.....	Hamilton	" 243, St. George.....	St. George
" 45, Brant.....	Brantford	" 272, Seymour.....	Ancaster
" 57, Harmony.....	Binbrook	" 291, Dufferin.....	West Flamboro'
" 61, Acacia.....	Hamilton	" 321, Walker.....	Acton West
" 62, St. Andrew's.....	Caledonia	" 324, Temple.....	Hamilton
" 100, Valley.....	Dundas	" 357, Waterdown.....	Millgrove
" 121, Doric.....	Brantford	" 382, Doric.....	Hamilton
" 135, St. Clair.....	Milton	" 400, Oakville.....	Oakville
" 165, Burlington.....	Burlington		

GEORGIAN DISTRICT, NO. 9. (19.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. G. M. Aylsworth, M. D., Collingwood.

No. 79, Simcoe.....	Bradford	No. 266, Northern Light.....	Stayner
" 88, St. George's.....	Owen Sound	" 285, Seven Star.....	Alliston
" 90, Mani.....	Collingwood	" 304, Minerva.....	Stroud
" 96, Corinthian.....	Barrie	" 322, North Star.....	Owen Sound
" 137, Pythagoras.....	Meaford	" 333, Prince Arthur.....	Flesherton
" 192, Orillia.....	Orillia	" 348, Georgian.....	Penetanguishene
" 230, Kerr.....	Barrie	" 377, Lorne.....	Shelburne
" 234, Beaver.....	Clarksburg	" 385, Spry.....	Beeton
" 236, Manitoba.....	Cookstown	" U. D. Nitetis.....	Creemore
" 249, Caledonian.....	Midland		

NIAGARA DISTRICT, NO. 10. (21.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. C. H. Connor, St. Catharines.

No. 2, Niagara.....	Niagara	No. 221, Mountain.....	Thorold
" 7, Union.....	Grimsby	" 254, Clifton.....	Niagara
" 15, St. George's.....	St. Catharines	" 277, Seymour.....	Port Dalhousie
" 32, Amity.....	Dunnville	" 296, Temple.....	St. Catharines
" 35, St. John's.....	Cayuga	" 319, Hiram.....	Hagersville
" 103, Maple Leaf.....	St. Catharines	" 329, King Solomon.....	Jarvis
" 105, St. Mark's.....	Drummondville	" 337, Myrtle.....	Port Robinson
" 115, Ivy.....	Beamsville	" 333, Dufferin.....	Wellandport
" 168, Merritt.....	Welland	" 372, Palmer.....	Victoria
" 169, Macnab.....	Port Colborne	" 373, Copestone.....	Welland
" 185, Enniskillen.....	York		

TORONTO DISTRICT NO. 11. (40.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. T. W. Chapple, Uxbridge.

No. 16, St. Andrew's.....Toronto	No. 265, Patterson.....Thornhill
" 22, King Solomon's.....Toronto	" 269, Brougham Union.....Brougham
" 23, Richmond.....Richmond Hill	" 292, Robertson.....Nobleton
" 25, Ionic.....Toronto	" 305, Humber.....Weston
" 54, Vaughan.....Maple	" 311, Blackwood.....Woodbridge
" 65, Rehoboam.....Toronto	" 316, Doric.....Toronto
" 75, St. John's.....Toronto	" 326, Zetland.....Toronto
" 86, Wilson.....Toronto	" 339, Orient.....Toronto
" 87, Markham Union.....Markham	" 343, Georgina.....Toronto
" 97, Sharon.....Sharon	" 346, Occident.....Toronto
" 98, True Blue.....Albion	" 354, Brock.....Cannington
" 99, Tuscan.....Newmarket	" 356, River Park.....Streetsville
" 118, Union.....Schomberg	" 367, St. George.....Toronto
" 129, The Rising Sun.....Aurora	" 369, Mimico.....Lambton Mills
" 136, Richardson.....Stouffville	" 384, Alpha.....Toronto
" 156, York.....North Toronto	" 410, Zeta.....Toronto
" 218, Stevenson.....Toronto	" 424, Doric.....Pickering
" 220, Zeredatha.....Uxbridge	" 426, Stanley.....Toronto Junction
" 229, Ionic.....Brampton	" 430, Acacia.....East Toronto
" 247, Ashlar.....Toronto	" 438, Harmony.....Toronto

ONTARIO DISTRICT, NO. 12. (24.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. E. Fitzgerald, Fenelon Falls

No. 26, Ontario.....Port Hope	No. 268, Verulain.....Bobcaygeon
" 30, Composite.....Whitby	" 270, Cedar.....Oshawa
" 31, Jerusalem.....Bowmanville	" 313, Clementi.....Lakefield
" 39, Mount Zion.....Brooklin	" 325, Orono.....Orono
" 66, Durham.....Newcastle	" 374, Keene.....Keene
" 77, Faithful Brethren.....Lindsay	" 375, Lorne.....Omemee
" 101, Corinthian.....Peterborough	" 398, Victoria.....Victoria Road
" 114, Hope.....Port Hope	" 406, The Spry.....Fenelon Falls
" 139, Lebanon.....Oshawa	" 408, Murray.....Beaverton
" 145, J. B. Hall.....Millbrook	" 428, Fidelity.....Port Perry
" 155, Peterborough.....Peterborough	" 435, Havelock.....Havelock
" 223, Norwood.....Norwood	" 440, Arcadia.....Minden

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT, NO. 13. (20.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. A. R. Hargraft, Cobourg.

No. 11, Moira.....Belleville	No. 125, Golden Rule.....Campbellford
" 17, St. John's.....Cobourg	" 127, Frank.....Frankford
" 18, Prince Edward.....Picton	" 161, Percy.....Warkworth
" 29, United.....Brighton	" 164, Star in the East.....Wellington
" 38, Trent.....Trenton	" 215, Lake.....Ameliasburg
" 48, Madoc.....Madoc	" 222, Marmora.....Marmora
" 50, Consec.....Consec	" 239, Tweed.....Tweed
" 69, Stirling.....Stirling	" 278, Mystic.....Roslin
" 91, Colborne.....Colborne	" 283, Fureka.....Belleville
" 123, The Belleville.....Belleville	" 401, Craig.....Deseronto

FRONTENAC DISTRICT, NO. 14. (14.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. Walter Macnee, Kingston.

No. 3, The Anc't St. John's.....Kingston	No. 201, Leeds.....Gananoque
" 9, Union.....Napanea	" 212, Elysian.....Garden Island
" 92, Cataraqui.....Kingston	" 228, Prince Arthur.....Odessa
" 109, Albion.....Harrowsmith	" 253, Minden.....Kingston
" 119, Maple Leaf.....Bath	" 299, Victoria.....Centreville
" 146, Prince of Wales.....Newburgh	" 404, Lorne.....Tarnworth
" 157, Simpson.....Newboro'	" 441, Westport.....Westport

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, NO. 15. (23.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. T. A. Stayner, Brockville.

No. 5, Sussex.....Brockville	No. 242, Macoy.....Mallorytown
" 14, True Britons.....Perth	" 256, Farran's Point.....Farran's Pt
" 24, St. Francis.....Smith's Falls	" 320, Chesterville.....Chesterville
" 28, Mount Zion.....Kemptonville	" 368, Salem.....Brockville
" 55, Merrickville.....Merrickville	" 370, Harmon.....Delta
" 74, St. James.....Bethel	" 383, Henderson.....West Winchester
" 85, Rising Sun.....Farmersville	" 387, Lansdowne.....Lansdowne
" 110, Central.....Prescott	" 389, Crystal Fountain.....N. Augusta
" 125, Cornwall.....Cornwall	" 416, Lyn.....Lyn
" 142, Excelsior.....Morrisburg	" 418, Maxville.....Maxville
" 143, Friendly Brothers.....Iroquois	" 439, Alexandria.....Alexandria
" 207, Lancaster.....Lancaster	

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OTTAWA DISTRICT, NO. 16. (18.)

D.D.G.M.--R. W. Bro. G. E. Josephs, M. D., Pembroke,

No. 21a, St. John's.....Vanleek Hill	No. 177, The Builders'.....Ottawa
" 52, Dalhousie.....Ottawa	" 183, Plantagenet.....Plantagenet
" 58, Dorie.....Ottawa	" 196, Madawaska.....Arnprior
" 63, St. John's...Carleton Place	" 209, Evergreen.....Lanark
" 122, Renfrew.....Renfrew	" 231, Lodge of Fidelity.....Ottawa
" 128, Pembroke.....Pembroke	" 264, Chaudiere.....Ottawa
" 147, Mississipi.....Almonte	" 371, Prince of Wales.....Ottawa
" 148, Civil Service.....Ottawa	" 405, Mattawa.....Mattawa
" 159, Goodwood.....Richmond	" 433, Bonnechere.....Eganville

ALGOMA DISTRICT, NO. 16. (6.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. C. F. Farewell, Sault Ste. Marie.

No. 287, Shuniab.....Port Arthur	No. 415, Fort William..Fort William
" 412, Key Stone.....Sault Ste Marie	" 417, Keewatin.....Keewatin Mills
" 411, Pequonga.....Rat Portage	U. D., Dymont.....Thessalon

NIPPISSING DISTRICT NO. 18. (9.)

D.D.G.M.—R.W. Bro. W. H. Howey, M. D., Sudbury.

No. 352, Granite .....Parry Sound	No. 423, Strong.....Sundridge
" 360, Muskoka.....Bracebridge	" 427, Nickel.....Sudbury
" 376, Unity.....Huntsville	" 434, Algonquin Emsdale
" 409, Golden Rule ... Gravenhurst	U. D., Powassen.....Powassen
" 420, Nipissing North Bay	

NOT ATTACHED TO ANY DISTRICT.

No. 293, The Royal Solomon Mother, Jerusalem. Palestine.

RECAPITULATION.

	District No.	1.....	22 Lodges
Erie	"	2.....	20 "
St. Clair	"	3.....	26 "
London	"	4.....	15 "
South Huron	"	5.....	19 "
North Huron	"	6.....	21 "
Wilson	"	7.....	21 "
Wellington	"	8.....	21 "
Hamilton	"	9.....	19 "
Georgian	"	10.....	21 "
Niagara	"	11.....	40 "
Toronto	"	12.....	24 "
Ontario	"	13.....	20 "
Prince Edward	"	14.....	14 "
Frontenac	"	15.....	23 "
St. Lawrence	"	16.....	18 "
Ottawa	"	17.....	6 "
Algoma	"	18.....	9 "
Nipissing	"		1 "
Unattached.....			
Total.....			360

EXPULSIONS BY GRAND LODGE, 1897.

195—W. T. H. Vanstone. 341—T. B. Miller. 414—Arch. Campbell.

SUSPENSIONS U. M. C. 1896-97.

No. 35—Thos. Bridger. 77—Wm. W. Logan. 236—Stewart Wilson. 309—John R. Fenton. 332—Henry W. Cobus.

SUSPENSIONS FOR N. P. D., 1896-97.

No. 3—A. Davidson, W. M. Drennan, E. Plant, H. Dunlop. 5—R. McLennan, Jas. Guthrie, J. L. Publow, W. T. Dockrill. 10—N. T. Parker. 11—H. Conger, T. Dougall, W. R. Kelly, F. Lewis, A. J. Jones, J. Jermilyca, W. Fairman, R. A. Davis, G. Elliot, R. Potter, G. E. Donnelly, T. Benson, A. Blockley, W. Carnen, H. R. Beattie, W. C. Brown, R. E. Lazier, R. G. Malley. 15—Geo. Woodruff. Jas. C. Macgregor, Chas. A. Tilden, D. D. Potter, H. G. Hunt, E. A. Jukes. 16—Wm. Bowman, J. McMurren, D. Stocks, Thos. Joyce. 20—Jos. H. Marshall, R.

Whettier, J. Lovell, Geo. Campbell, J. Fairgrieve, C. H. Hunter, Jos. Johnson, S. Levitt, J. D. Peace, Wm. Robb, J. P. Rice, T. H. Tindall, Alex. M. Tait. 25—E. J. Lomnitz, O. L. Spencer. 31—R. R. Luscombe, W. Fishley. 32—J. W. McCallum, M. C. Upper, L. B. Fradenburgh, Adam Killins, W. H. Sparling, R. McKnight. 37—J. L. Perkins, R. S. Jarrett, G. G. Beck, A. D. Hoagg, J. F. Choate, John Ross, J. W. Hart. 38—R. Sausom, A. Young, R. Hamilton, P. Bolton, R. A. Barber, J. T. McKenzie, A. H. Potter. 40—J. Arthur, J. J. Smith, J. Hurrell, W. Anderson, D. Carr, R. J. Faulknor, W. Hover, W. T. Pringle, E. A. Schlaudecker. 42—Wm. Gall, C. Priddis, I. H. Cole. 43—E. Hagger, G. Utting, R. Cullon, A. W. Manson. 44—C. Smith, Jas. B. Squance, E. H. Kaymour. 47—Chas. Wright, John Gray, R. Lambert, J. Coomes, Wm. Wilkinson, A. H. Morrison, A. McLaughlin, J. B. Clark. 52—J. E. Fudge, N. N. Topley, J. A. Torney. 55—R. Brombridge. 58—G. B. Peacock, A. J. H. Russell. 61—Thos. Brown, Fred. Turner, F. A. White, John Watt. 63—J. G. Phillips, W. Robertson, J. Wills. 64—Thos. Howie, Wm. Sampson. 65—J. W. Cheseworth, R. Gowens, Jas. Macdonald, R. Flack, R. Irvine, J. H. Banes, John Fraser, F. G. Lee. 68—Wm. Clark, F. A. Brink, Jas. Sinclair, B. McIntyre, S. F. Houser, A. E. Edson, W. Leigh, J. F. Barker. 69—M. Seeley, J. Gouzell, J. McCurdy, G. W. Wickett, D. Seeley, Geo. Simpson, J. C. Wilson, W. P. Chaid, J. A. McConnell, C. Nix, B. Milks, G. F. Lervy, D. D. Rickley, R. Marshall, W. H. Smilie, G. H. Wilson, M. Wickett. 72—John Cavers, C. S. Eggleton, H. B. Travers. 73—J. Clyde, J. Newman, C. Rolston, G. Maclean, Jos. Stafford, John McLaughlin. 74—G. A. Donnelly, Alex. Shipman. 75—A. G. McKay, G. W. Galloway. 76—R. Bennett, John Mitchell, A. S. H. Hill, Albert Copp. 77—D. Ray, J. A. Mark, S. M. Porter, J. L. Stoddart. 79—W. W. Ellis, W. J. Lawrence. 81—E. Cade, M. J. Campbell, J. Weks, J. V. McKellar, Thos. Kennedy. 83—Chas. Rapley, D. B. Campbell, Chas. H. McIntosh, H. Wilson, J. H. Bobbs, E. Vokes. 86—Ed. Betts, G. Davie, R. A. Dickson, W. H. Hewlett, T. S. McCool, A. I. Morrison, J. A. Pearson, C. Spanner, J. W. Stockwell. 91—M. H. Peterson, B. Hinman, C. W. Crandell, L. F. Purdy, A. Wessels, A. E. Horsley. 92—W. Allen, W. P. Campbell, J. Rockwell, W. Bradford, J. J. Bates, J. Green. 94—J. G. Long, Wm. Zelland, F. Westlake, P. McCulloch, F. E. Shappard, W. H. Farr. 96—R. S. Booth, A. W. Brown. 98—D. A. Kennedy, A. E. Harper, R. W. Burrell, A. Munie, S. Cobane, H. H. Bolten, A. Noble. 100—J. McFedries, J. W. Fletcher, Wm. McFedries. 101—W. G. Bain, John H. Glass, G. B. Sproule. 103—D. W. Reid, A. A. McMaugh, A. Bennett. 104—G. S. Cavin, Wm. T. Nutt, L. F. Bun-gay, J. Coonwell, S. Smiley, H. Stewart, J. Underhill. 106—C. H. Flood. 108—S. D. Strobe. 110—S. Hollingsworth, J. S. Lane, J. W. Swan. 114—A. Sainsbury, W. R. Pethick, John Philip, J. Cooper. 120—E. Lumley. 126—Robert Armstrong. 127—Wm. Kerr, Jas. W. Ellis, Jas. W. Campbell. 129—J. W. Lloyd E. F. Langstaff, H. G. Graham. 133—D. A. Ross, T. A. Brown, A. Switzer, Jas. Dempsey. 136—G. McEachern, J. A. Told, Jno. Stephenson, L. C. Wideman. 137—J. F. Patterson, A. Skinner, W. S. Bates, J. Chillon, T. P. Cunningham, W. N. Chisholm. 139—Wm. Leek. 140—Chas. James. 141—W. P. Kerr. 144—C. A. Bean, Geo. Hurd, W. R. Knox, W. Marshall. 145—Chas. Byers, Jas. Wigar, Geo. P. Willburn. 146—M. Davern. 147—S. S. Dickson. 148—E. Planet, J. Ogilvie, W. J. Stockand, H. J. Brouskill. 151—P. Doeller, T. J. West, C. Krauz, J. M. Staebler. 153—Geo. Head, T. Donald, A. J. McKee, J. G. Ferguson, Robt. Gregor, W. Haggart. 154—Jas. Brooks, W. E. Hooper, W. McLeod, John McEwen, J. Sutton, Geo. Shaw, C. M. Webb, Geo. Duffield, John D. Shipley. 155—W. J. Hall, J. W. Crosby, Jas. Frowd, W. G. Hollinger, G. H. Raley, D. A. Shaw. 158—F. Blain, G. Harper, A. R. Hauks, J. F. Hottenstein, T. Palmer, J. Thompson, J. O. Vansickle. 162—Jno. Hooley, J. W. Green, Wm. Stinson, J. J. Rutherford, J. B. Vogt, I. Elliott. W. J. Douglass, W. G. Nelles. 168—J. D. Robins, W. W. Wilson, J. F. Gross, Wm. Parker. 170—John Steel, George Whitely, Rich. Mercer, Hugh McKay, Hugh Grieve. 174—I. Brown, J. C. Becker, J. E. Price, E. Smith. 180—J. McLean, A. E. Hogg. 181—Jno. Hollywood, Fred. W. Fay. 190—Chas. Kennedy, Jas. Gotheridge. 192—Chas. Jackson, D. J. McPhee, F. J. Delaney, W. N. McPhee, C. E. Jessupp, R. R. Weir. 195—L. W. Furke, P. J. Watt. 197—M. Kaufmann, Wm. Smythe. 207—W. J. McNaughton J. D. Houston, J. McCormick, A. W. McLennan, M. McM. Mowat, S. A. Dunn, A. Garean. 209a—T. Blackwell, D. Burn, W. A. Campbell, J. J. Cox, L. H. Scandrett, J. S. Marshall, W. W. Rogers, Geo. Heron. 212—A. Milligan, D. Catanach, F. Allen. 215—W. M. Phillips. 216—W. J. Allen, J. Harshaw, R. J. McConnell, Jas. Taylor, E. A. Glover, G. B. Moore, S. Irwin, Jno. White, R. B. Henry, Hy. Allen, C. Campplain, F. J. Hollaway, P. Turnbull, H. Newman, H. Madge, C. Campbell, J. M. Bennett. 217—L. H. Sinden, Hy. Anderson, G. R. Gray, S. Hicks. 221—H. N. Summers, J. Upper, J. Emmitt, S. Howarth. 222—D. Clarke, Wm. Stanley. 225—G. H. Edgecombe, A. E. Jamieson. 229—W. D. Hunter, S. W. Taylor. 231—Jas. Corry, Gus Levin. 233—Thos. L. Rogers, A. A. W. Humphries, R. J. Kerr. 234—W. R. Hunter. 235—J. McIntyre, Geo. Pimperton. 236—W. W. Bantinhimer, J. T. Heaslip, G. W. Culverwell, H. Fraser, C. W. Blackstock. 239—Chas. A. Kirby, Jas. Beatty, J. F. Bird. 247—J. Alexander, D. J. Cator, W. R. Clarke, G. H. Grundy, G. K. Hackborn, H. H. Hook, Thos. Johnston, A. G. Mortimer, Chas. Robertson, Jos. E. Vardon. 249—

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B. R. Jane. 250—Robt. Davis. 254—J. S. Hawkins, W. H. Hawkins. 258—C. C. Culshaw. 260—C. Stewart, W. J. Hanua, D. R. Weir, A. McD. Armstrong, W. H. Milne. 263—E. T. Clark. 264—Paul Rukop. 266—J. H. Jacks, Jas. Brydges, J. J. Pilkey, A. Cameron, W. Campbell, Geo. Hunt. 270—Wm. Bunker, T. D. Allin, C. A. Rogan, G. E. Mowbray, N. A. McDiarmid, C. L. Rennie, T. Scott, Geo. Bone, John Henry. 284—T. Kirkconnell, T. Bowen, J. Ballantine. 285—A. C. Foster. 287—J. Metcalfe, J. G. Gillies, A. L. McEwen, W. J. Trethway 294—Jas. G. Nesbit, A. Bogle. 295—C. Brown, A. C. Woodman, Wm. Jameson, S. W. Fawcette, Jos. Gregory, G. W. Edmonds, Jno. Gordon, J. C. Hefkey, Wm. Roberts, John Dodds. 299—T. N. Denyes, C. S. Ash. 300—G. Matheson, L. M. Ardiel, W. B. Scratchard, W. Wannacott. 303—J. H. Stephenson, J. A. Tanner, Jas. Montgomery, E. Livingstone, H. A. Scarlett. 318—Ed. Roth, I. Batzner, A. M. Gabel. 320—J. K. Meredith, W. E. Johnston, G. M. Kirk, Wm. Walker. 321—J. P. Warden. 323—C. J. Parker, F. J. Benner, H. Liddon, D. McFarlane, J. W. Fitzpatrick. 325—J. A. Phillips, A. A. Powers. 330—Jas. W. Macguire. 331—Jas. Hutcheson, W. J. Dunlop, J. C. Bell, Wm. Marriott. 336—S. Grant, A. Ferguson, G. Buchanan. 339—C. T. Bright, F. T. Burgess, J. M. Williams, A. S. Purdy. 341—J. McLeod, A. McLeod, J. J. Fee, W. Mackenzie, Nat. Glass. 346—H. G. Lawrence, J. J. Towns. 348—Jas. Patterson, Jas. E. Cooper. 354—J. C. Shier. 358—W. A. Guest, M. F. Forsyth, R. McG. Black. 361—T. Anderson, J. A. Neiles, T. James, A. E. Lyon, J. E. Rennett, T. H. Knox, P. Spraggue, G. H. Simpson, Wm. McLachlan, H. McGinn, Alex. Thompson, W. H. Hutchinson, E. L. Hunt, W. P. Scarff, R. J. McLellan. 367—R. West, J. T. Jones, G. T. Wright, J. Barrett, W. Jones, J. Swanson, Jno. T. Bridge, J. Magill, T. Jones, J. W. Yeo, W. G. Parsons, J. Marshall, S. McAdam. 369—Chas. Johnson, J. Jackson, F. Daniels, Jas. Morrow, W. W. Burgess, H. T. Ide. 371—Ed. Hawken, J. W. Ross, T. McVeitt, W. Mason, W. J. Storey, R. Ogilvey. 373—P. E. Ryan, W. Morningstar. 375—J. Murphy. 376—Chas. Morley, G. J. Tutt. 378—E. J. Forsyth. 380—T. C. Eldridge, L. G. Jarvis, R. B. Wood, Jas. Rowntree, J. McLaren, Ed. Gardener, J. Gilmour, S. Richardson, C. W. Walker, P. W. Bayliss, J. H. Reed, T. W. Birks, A. B. Freeland. 382—Escourt Arthur, A. W. Brice, S. Doak, R. B. Davies, W. J. Evans, F. Hobbs, Thos. Meade, R. McKee, Thomas Richmond, S. Scott. 384—A. W. Dodds, W. Bateson. 388—R. E. Allen, J. Bowman, L. Robson, J. W. Rowlands, J. W. Taylor, F. Walden, T. A. Moore, C. R. David, A. Tonger, Geo. Lipsit, J. H. Patrick, L. Hardy. 391—D. Sicklesteale, G. G. McRobbie, Jas. McKay, L. Galbraith, G. W. Lozar, J. Lunsbury, D. Leitch. 394—L. Lefarve. 396—Jas. Muirhead, F. S. Jennings. 397—T. H. Botham, D. Shaw, J. Watson, H. A. McFadden. 398—N. Talman. 400—T. T. Harris, A. Blakely, W. J. Brackon, E. Bones, E. J. Walsh, C. B. Patterson, H. W. Cavanash, W. Ashton. 401—H. A. Yeomans, Jas. Cameron, Geo. Stuart, G. J. Becker, G. P. Sills. 403—R. H. F. Wilson, W. L. Cameron. 406—Wm Webster. 408—J. H. Morrison, W. Suter, D. B. McRae, C. McRae, J. Leslie. 410—A. Aronsberg, J. O. Orr, H. C. Slaght, P. R. Cumming, M. Johnston, W. J. Graham, W. F. Lancaster. 412—D. J. Elliott, J. Whight, R. S. Latimer, S. T. Maguire, W. C. Foster, C. G. Griffin, R. Mylchreest. 415—T. H. McKee, A. D. Sutherland, C. J. McLennan, G. Glassford, H. L. Bell, Jas. McDougall, J. A. McIver, W. J. Robertson, R. Chambers, T. H. Graham, J. H. Elliott, J. T. Bethune, E. A. Carpenter, Geo. Ross, E. C. Everett, J. L. McPhail, W. W. Harrison, W. J. Stein, W. McLean, J. R. McNabb, A. C. J. McAllen, W. B. Rankin, R. Gass, A. H. Chase. 418—Jno. Boyd, A. E. Catton, L. C. Harris, P. J. McEwen, M. McLeod, K. J. McLennan, M. McLennan, J. D. Robertson, F. Robertson, A. E. Robson. 419—W. Slocum. 421—T. H. Goodall, R. L. Tweedy, D. McLellan. 423—J. H. Howes. 425—J. D. McNulty. 426—Alex. Hay, A. Jenner, D. McCartney. 428—C. H. Bates. 430—H. J. Craig, Geo. M. Furnival, D. G. Stephenson.

DEATHS 1896-97.

3—R. Barry, 11th Jan. '97. John Sutherland, 22nd Mar. '97. 5—Ed. McNally, 12th December, '96. 6—E. Servos, 2nd August, '96; John Houghton, 7th November, '96. 7—A. J. Christie, 16th September, '96. 11—B. C. McCargar, 26th September, '96; L. W. Yeomans, 19th October, '96; D. L. Brown, 14th November, '96. 14—John Cox, 19th May, '97. 15—John H. Hainer, 20th January, '97. 16—R. R. Lowrie, 10th May, '97. 17—John Gillbard, 29th June, '97. 18—J. H. Richards, 22nd February, '97; S. N. Carter, 11th April, '97; J. M. Cole, 18th May, '97. 20—Thos. Styles, 14th July, '96. 22—John McGann, 5th November, '96; E. W. Gardner, 19th November, '96; Robt. Pearson, 24th July, '97; 24—Jno. Ennis, 17th February, '97; Stewart Moag, 1st April, '97; 25—C. W. Lee 14th December, '96; H. Robinson, 19th January, '97; J. B. Baldwin, 20th May, '97. 26—T. T. Baines, 23rd January, '97. 27—E. J. Sanford, 13th March, '97. 29—John Butler, 17th June, '97; J. M. Wellington, 17th June, '97. 31—Bar. Lammiman, 7th February, '97. 32—Samuel Cormick, 20th January, '97; J. Nichol, 3rd January, '97; Jas. Fawcett, 5th January, '97; Geo. Wallace, 24th April, '97. 33—W. H. Murney, 7th July, '96; Daniel Wilson, no date. 38—Jas. W. Hyde, 7th May, '97. 39—Wm. Pearson, no date; John Arnett, no date. 40—

Jno. Norris, 10th September, '96; G. R. Van Order, 21 December, '96; D. Aitchison, 17th March, '97; W. McCargow, 15th April, '97; D. W. Moar, 15 April, '97. 41—Wm. H. Nelson, 15th August, '96; J. W. Peterson, 18th April, '97; P. Wilkinson, 23rd June '97. 42—E. Burke, 11th January, '96. 44—Ben. Martin, 17th September, '96; Alex. Fraser, 19th February, '97; A. Greenwood, 25th May, '97; Sam. Peters, 12th August, '97. 45—T. N. Sears, 22nd September, '96; Jas. Smith 1st November, '96; J. J. Inglis, 17th January, '97. 46—Chas. Poile, 6th February '96; Wm. Richards, 6th May, '96. 47—Wm. S. Booth, 17th July '96; Samuel Blampany, 27th Feb., '97. 48—Neil Todd, 23rd May, '96. 50—Joseph M. Cadman, 26th January, '96; W. C. Bedell, 4th Sept., '96. 56—Joseph Foulds, 13th Aug., '96; F. E. Harbottle, 3rd Aug., '96; J. C. Symes, 12th Dec., '96; B. T. Leigh, 22nd Dec., '96. 57—Thos. Wilson, 9th Jan., '97; V. Merritt, 27th Jan., '97. 61—L. E. Hatzfeldt, 17th July, '96; Thos. Wilkinson, 3rd Aug., '96; A. C. Combs, 12th March, '97; J. F. Webster, 5th June, '97. 65—Wm. Ledley, 30th July, '96; A. J. Fullen, 1st Sept., '96; W. M. Milligan, 13th April, '97; Chas. Duffy, 9th May, '97. 66—D. Allin, 10th Feb., '96. 68—James Badden, 29th Dec., '96; B. Minkler, 30th Jan., '97. 73—Daniel Dewar, 23rd Oct., '96. 75—John Ritchie, 13th Sept., '96; F. A. R. Gunther, 76th Sept., '96. 76—Chas. Iles, 8th Sept., '96. 78—George Bennett, 20th May, '96; Wm. Buckenough, 12th Oct., '96. 81—Jos. Hadden, 27th Oct., '96; Ben. Hallock, 13th Dec., '96. 82—Jos. Schaffer, 13th May, '97. 83—Wm. Rapley, 23rd Sept., '96; A. S. Heake, 9th Jan., '97; H. Dell, 27th Feb., '97. 86—S. R. Harris, 27th Sept., '96; D. S. Briggs, 16th Nov., '96; C. H. Durming, 23rd Nov., '96; J. Worden, 16th Feb., '97; Theo. Smith, 11th May, '97. 88—Geo. Price, 9th March, '97. 90—Geo. C. McKenzie, 13th June, '97; Geo. Collins, 24th June, '97. 91—R. A. Brinthal, 16th Jan., '97. 92—D. Milne, 13th Feb., '96; John Kennedy, 19th Feb., '96; Robt. Bell, 25th April, '96. 96—Samuel Prior, 25th Feb., '97; C. B. Crease, 25th Feb., '97. 97—J. J. Doan, 31st July, '96; S. S. Marsh, 22nd Mar., '97. 103—J. F. Coy, 13th Oct., '96. 106—J. H. R. Secord, 10th Jan., '97. 107—W. C. Lewis, 5th Mar., '97; M. McPherson, 12th April, '97; M. B. Welkins, 19th Jan., '97. 100—A. Grant, 15th Aug., '96; F. A. Munn, 2nd Dec., '96; D. Campbell, 28th June, '96. 119—J. H. Richards, 1st Feb., '97. 120—Thomas Orchard, 29th June, '96. 121—W. E. Weeks, 18th Dec., '96; W. S. Campbell, 25th Dec., '96; G. Haslem, 18th Feb., '97; W. D. Jones, 3rd April, '97; W. Roope, 30th May, '97; G. Roswell, 5th June, '97. 123—Fred. E. Redick, 18th July, '96. 125—C. B. Pettit, 13th Dec., '96. 129—Alex. J. Scott, 1st Oct., '96; A. G. H. Andrew, 6th March, '97. 131—R. Nokes, 12th March, '96; A. Lindsay, 10th April, '96; M. McKenzie, 26th March, '97. 133—I. Bowerman, 26th March, '97. 136—E. W. Gardner, 19th Nov., '96. 137—Samuel R. Eagles, 16th July, '97. 139—F. Rae, 8th May, '96; Wm. Johns, 22nd Oct., '96; Dan. Lich, 5th Dec., '96. 140—A. Lewis, 25th March, '97. 143—David Bouck, Sept., '96. 144—James Ames, 16th Sept., '96. 145—Thomas N. Clarke, 20th Aug., '95. 146—T. A. Grauge, 24th May, '97. 149—Ed. Beapure, 26th April, '97; R. N. Colver, 29th March, '97. 151—Charles Hendry, 4th Jan., '97. 153—H. H. Hunt, 6th March, '97. 154—Wm. Quigley, 24th Sept., '95. 156—W. J. Bull, 21st June, '97. 159—C. B. Pettit, 13th Dec., '96. 161—W. H. Boyer, 30th July, '96; J. Dunnigan, 4th June, '97; Wm. Montgomery, 7th April, '97. 162—Thomas F. Miller, 25th Dec., '96. 164—L. B. Stinson, 30th March, '97. 166—Alva G. Jones, 18th Aug., '96. 168—Alex. Upper, 6th Nov., '96. 169—Charles H. Carter, 14th March, '97. 178—R. Baird, 8th April, '97. 180—W. H. Jacomb, 20th July, '96; J. E. McPherson, 11th Nov., '96; T. Watts, 21st Feb., '96. 190—Alex. Forbes, 10th Dec., '96; Wm. Moher, 24th April, '97. 192—John Tudpole, 12th Oct., '96. 193—Geo. Brown, 1st Jan., '97; W. J. Glassford, 2nd Jan., '97; Wm. Hay, 16th Jan., '97; Wm. Thompson, 29th June, '97. 194—H. H. Hunt, 6th March, '97. 196—A. J. Butler, 14th March, '97; D. McFarlane, 18th Jan., '97. 201—Wm. Byers, 23rd Feb., '96. 203—John Muddell, 25th March, '97; F. Dalby, 25th April, '97. 205—J. N. Stiefelmeyer, 27th Oct., '96. 209a—Jas. Craig, 30th June, '96; W. J. Mitchell, 21st Feb., '97; J. T. Barnewall, 16th April, '97. 216—J. C. Fox, 3rd Oct., '96; G. Irwin, 25th Oct., '96; J. K. Decatur, 4th Nov., '96; A. McClellan, 9th Nov., '96. 217—Geo. W. Wood, 31st May, '97. 218—S. A. Wilson, 20th Aug., '96; Robt. King, 13th Oct., '96; J. H. Guest, 3rd Feb., '97; J. K. Harbottle. 219—Saml. Phillips, 2nd Nov., '96; Wm. Scollen, 30th May, '97. 220—Robt. Boyd, 5th October, '96. 225—Geo. Willis, 1st Feb., '97. 229—R. Boyle, 12th March, '96. 230—John Gordan, 3rd Dec., '96. 233—D. J. White, 26th Dec., '96. 234—E. Dickinson, 22nd Jan., '97. 236—John Platt, 31st July, '96. 237—G. W. Davies, 3rd March, '97; John Dean, 16th May, '97. 247—A. Taylor, 21st July, '96; A. McKenzie, 7th Dec., '96. 250—T. W. Tate, 5th May, '97. 254—H. D. Webster, 29th March, '97; D. Blount, 25th April, '97. 256—R. H. Loucks, 15th Oct., '96; A. B. Gray, 23rd Aug., '96. 258—C. A. Burdon, 15th Nov., '96; Jas. H. Findlay, 21st June, '97. 261—D. W. McKay, no date. 262—John Collision, 27th March, '97. 263—D. Simmens, 21st March, '97; C. Wickman, 10th May, '97; R. A. Hill, 20th June, '97. 264—G. H. Walters, 8th June, '96; Jas. Mather, 8th Aug., '96; Jno. Lowery, 2nd Aug., '96; T. H. Warwicker, 9th April, '97. 269—H. Westgate, 2nd July, '96. 270—Jas. Smith, 9th Oct., '96. 271—B. Franklin, 11th July, '96. 272—Frank Beven, 19th March, '97. 278—John Hicks, 1st April, '97. 282—J. J. Barnewall, April, '97. 286—Thos. Stiles, 14th July, '96. 287—A. Nicholson, 5th July, '96; Thos. E. Patch, 7th Nov.,

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'96. 297—Wm. C. Schlueter, 18th Aug., '96. 302—E. A. McCrimmon, 8th Aug., '97. 303—J. M. Henderson, Sept., '95. 305—John Paxton, 1st Jan., '97. 309—John Morgan, 22nd Dec., '96. 312—W. S. Howell, 4th Sept., '96; Chas. Fraser, 6th June '97. 314—Walter Myles, 12th September, '96. 319—C. F. Sevenpiper, 20th August, '96. 320—Jas. Keyes, 6th March, '97. 322—Robt. Edgar, 25th October, '96; G. W. Patterson, 10th July, '96; J. F. Binns, 23rd October, '96. 324—John W. Roseburgh, 26th March, '97. 326—A. P. Taylor, 22nd August, '96. 330—E. F. Howay, 27th May, '97. 332—F. W. Gearing, 15th July, '96; Thos. Plummer, 16th March, '97. 336—Samuel Dockstader, 28th November, '96. 338—Peter Sensabaugh, 15th February, '97. 343—Geo. E. Brown, 28th December, '96. 346—Wm. Ivy, 14th December, '96; Samuel Reid, 25th February, '97. 354—John Allin, 25th October, '96. 356—J. K. Beaty, 19th December, '96; J. Brookbanks, 18th June, '97. 357—John Palmer, 31st August, '96; N. Hunter, 25th May, '97. 368—F. R. Feehan, 15th March, '97. 370—L. S. Soper, 17th September, '96; Ed. Coleman, 5th May, '97. 371—G. S. Macfarlane, October, '96; L. Winters, 4th May, '97. 372—John Jackson, 16th November, '96. J. E. Edwards, 16th March, '97. 375—H. Kennedy, 3rd April, '97. 377—T. Allen, 8th January, '97. 379—Jas. Sinclair, 25th October, '96. 383—P. C. Bowen, 10th July, '96. 384—Chas. Ross, 20th July, '96; Samuel Hall, 7th February, '97. 389—W. J. Elliott, 26th February, '97. 390—G. Rheintgen, 17th September, '96. 391—W. E. Hagaman, 2nd September, '96. 394—J. Munro McKay, 29th December, '96. 400—Geo. L. Tizard, 17th January, '97. 401—W. C. B. Rathbun, 20th November, '96. 402—Geo. McKenzie, 4th December, '96. 403—D. L. McGlasshan, 17th January, '97; John Moffat, 23rd December, '96. 405—Alex. Lawrence, 21st June, '97. 406—John Chambers, 24th August, '96. 409—Thos. J. Pyburn, 8th February, '97. 410—W. S. Hambly, 23rd October, '96. 412—W. R. Hunter, 8th August, '97. 413—J. T. Entwistle, 4th June, '96. 416—John Armstrong, 27th March, '97. 424—James Hilt, 1st March, '97; D. B. Gormley, 15th May, '97. 426—John Donaldson, 14th July, '96. 434—Geo. Thomas, 19th July, '96. 438—F. Buchanan, 25th October, '96; C. H. Dunuing, 29th November, '96.

RESTORATIONS, 1896-97.

5—Robt. G. Hervey. 15—J. C. McGregor. 16—Wm. Henry. 20—Wm. Connor. 22—A. J. Marshall. 37—R. S. Jarrett. 38—G. T. Neun. 40—P. Carridi, J. J. Smith. Jas. L. Taylor. 41—W. Valentine. 42—Wm. Moser. 45—John Findlay. 46—J. J. Booth. 48—H. S. Price, John R. Ruckstuhl. 55—John Mills, Richard Brombridge. 56—C. H. Cogan, Jas. Geddes, Thos. Parkinson, P. D. Lemon. 57—Thos. Wilson. 61—Jas. R. Sutherland. 72—I. E. Eby, John Cavers. 73—H. A. L. White. 75—T. A. Robinson. 76—John W. Stafford. 77—C. E. McIntyre, Harry McNeil. 81—F. J. Bateman. 83—W. W. Crossley. 88—T. C. Farrand. 91—Dennis Pettit. 92—J. R. Chisholm. 94—Chas. A. Payne. 96—John Powell. 98—J. K. McEwen, D. Norton. 113—J. A. Gould, J. W. Merrill. S. Lawrence, W. I. Banks. 119—A. Jesse. 123—W. J. Bntler, Thos. Waymark. 125—Geo. Barden. 129—C. F. Wilkin. 140—John Black, Robt. Turnbull, John Campbell. 141—Jas. Wilson, Fred. Butcher. 144—W. Marshall. 146—S. M. Surtliff. 148—H. J. Bronskill, W. R. Bell. 153—J. C. McLachlan. 157—J. Connolly. 158—R. A. Hunter, J. Savage, G. o. Harper, J. Thompson. 164—Wm. McDonald, L. B. Stinson. 170—P. Voliner, E. J. Hazlewood. 174—John Collett. 189—Jacob C. Williams. 201—W. N. Rogers, Jesse Stundén, W. B. Fulerton. 209a—Wm. Fielding. 215—F. Saunders. 216—R. J. McConnell. 218—C. L. Lancaster, H. N. Williams. 221—Wm. H. Bone. 228—Wm. Amsley. 247—J. Alexander. 249—T. H. Morrill. 258—Geo. W. Jones. 263—W. J. Stirton. 265—W. T. Brown, D. Clark. 267—L. J. Robertson. 277—Chas. Quackenbush. 278—John Hicks. 287—G. R. Thompson. 289—Luther Stilson. 302—R. M. Smith, J. Hilpatrick. 305—Wm. Pears. 306—Arch. L. McKenzie. 312—Fred. Merrill. 335—John Groves, C. A. Phillips. 330—C. L. Driefer. 338—Frederick Lint. 345—Jas. Gorden. 346—J. H. Clinkunbrumer. 352—J. S. Scarlett. 354—Jas. Cowan, W. G. Smith. 359—W. J. Brownlee. 370—W. R. Beatty. 376—D. Johnson, Chas. Peacock. 380—J. D. F. Pearson, Geo. Rutherford, Wm. J. Thompson, W. J. Elliott. 382—A. W. Brice. 388—Thos. Oliver. 398—A. F. Staback, W. McInnis. 400—Geo. L. Tizard. 403—W. L. Cameron. 405—R. H. S. Hardy. 410—J. K. Hyslop, J. Hunter. 412—Alex. McIntyre. 413—Thomas Norry.

In Memoriam.

Most Worshipful Brother

JOHN HEADLEY BELL

Initiated in St. John's Lodge, No. 20, London,
Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

Died 16th of March, 1897.

Right Worshipful Brother

W. G. McMILLEN

Past Master of Union Lodge, No. 380, London; D. D. G. M.
of London District, No. 2.

Died 9th of May, 1897.

Right Worshipful Brother

G. S. MACFARLANE

Past Master of Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 371, Ottawa;
P. D. D. G. M. of Ottawa District, No. 16.

Died 1st of October, 1896.

In Memoriam.

Right Worshipful Brother

J. C. FOX

Past Master of Harris Lodge, No. 216, Orangeville.
P. D. D. G. M. Wellington District, No. 7.

Died 3rd of October, 1897.

Right Worshipful Brother

C. HENDRY

Past Master of Grand River Lodge, No. 151, Berlin.
P. D. D. G. M. Wellington District, No. 7.

Died 4th of January, 1897.

Right Worshipful Brother

GEORGE RUSSELL

Past Master of The Barton Lodge, No. 6, Hamilton.
P. D. D. G. M. Hamilton District, No. 8.

Died 29th of June, 1897.

In Memoriam.

Right Worshipful Brother

The REV. CANON PETTIT

Past Master of Cornwall Lodge, No. 125, Cornwall;
Past Grand Chaplain.

Died 13th of December, 1896.

Right Worshipful Brother

THE REV. WM. HAY

Past Master of Scotland Lodge, No. 193, Scotland;
Past Grand Chaplain.

Died 16th of January, 1897.

Very Worshipful Brother

JOHN SUTHERLAND

Past Master of the Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston,
Past Grand Senior Deacon.

Died 22nd of March, 1897.

In Memoriam.

Very Worshipful Brother

J. H. FINDLAY

Past Master of Guelph Lodge, No. 258, Guelph.
Past Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Died 21st of June, 1897.

Very Worshipful Brother

DAVID AITCHISON

Past Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 40, Hamilton.
Past Assistant Grand Secretary.

Died 17th of March, 1897.

Very Worshipful Brother

EDWIN W. GARDNER

Past Master of Richardson Lodge, No. 136, Stouffville.
Past Grand Organist.

Died 19th of November, 1897.

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" C. F. Farewell.....	Sault Ste. Marie	Algoma	" 17
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APPENDIX TO PROCEEDINGS OF 1897.

Report on Correspondence.

HENRY ROBERTSON, *Chairman.*

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.

The Committee on Correspondence present herewith their annual report on the Proceedings of other Grand Lodges for the year 1897.

The Proceedings reviewed are arranged in alphabetical order, and a list will be found at the close of the report.

In order to economize space and to lessen the expense of publication in accordance with our instructions, our comments will be few.

ALABAMA.

76th Communication, Montgomery, Dec. 1, 1896.

Geo. P. Harrison, G. M.

The past year in this jurisdiction has been a prosperous one. Two new lodges were formed.

The Wisconsin relief proposition was referred to a special committee to report next session.

The proposition from the Grand Lodge of Maine with reference to jurisdiction over rejected candidates was also left over.

The following resolutions were adopted :

" *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are cordially extended to Miss Leila Herbert, Vice-Regent for Alabama of the 'Ladies' Mount Vernon Association for Preserving the Home and Tomb of Washington,' for her generous donation of handsome photographic views of the home and tomb of Washington, and a gavel made of the wood of the last tree—a magnolia—which Brother George Washington planted at Mount Vernon, before his death, 'an imitation, in shape and dimensions, of the famous gavel now in possession of Potomac Lodge, No. 5 (then Columbia Lodge, No. 19, of Maryland), to which Washington presented it, after using it in laying the corner stone of the United States Capitol, at Washington.' " * * *

" *Resolved*, That, in order to provide an adequate plan for bringing the appeal of Miss Herbert, Vice-Regent of Alabama of the 'Ladies' Mount Vernon Association for Preserving the Home and Tomb of Washington,' to the attention of the craft in this Grand Jurisdiction, and for the purpose of raising funds for this laudable and patriotic

cause, that this Grand Lodge hereby requests the delegates present to bring this matter to the attention of their respective lodges, and to ask the brethren to make contributions commensurate with the claims of this worthy object; and that the Worshipful Masters of said lodges forward the amounts so contributed to the 'Special Committee on the Home and Tomb of Washington,' as provided for by this Grand Lodge."

Bro. P. J. Pillans reports on Correspondence and reviews the Proceedings of Canada for 1896.

Lodges, 375; members, 11,113; increase, 39.

James A. Bilbro (Gadsden), G. M.

H. Clay Armstrong (Montgomery), G. S.

ARIZONA.

15th Communication, Tucson, Nov. 10, 1896.

Artemus L. Grow, G. M.

The address of the Grand Master opens with words of good cheer:

"The duties of the Grand Master for the last year have been performed conscientiously, and have been of an agreeable nature, nothing of great importance having disturbed him or called for an exercise of his authority in any way. The reports will show you that there have been three dispensations issued for the purpose of organizing new lodges during the year, and also a fair addition to our rolls of members, for which I congratulate this Grand Body. The Masonic year has been a prosperous one for us, notwithstanding the 'present gold standard.' Financially we have held our own on grievances and no annoyances, all appearing to be unanimity and concord in this jurisdiction."

The Grand Master visited seven lodges, thus continuing the good work of his predecessor. The sparsely settled condition of this jurisdiction, its enormous extent and the great distances between the lodges render the instruction and inspection of the lodges a very difficult undertaking.

A proposal to exempt from dues those members who have paid dues for 25 years was negatived.

Lodges, 14; members, 569; increase, 66.

William F. Nichols (Willcox), G. M.

George J. Roskrue (Tucson), G. S.

ARKANSAS.

57th Communication, Little Rock, Nov. 17, 1896.

A. G. Washburn, G. M.

The Grand Master was sorely afflicted during the year, being for four months almost totally blind, but he appears to have performed all his duties well and satisfactorily. He issued dis-

pensions for seven new lodges. From his address we quote as follows :

"Masonry, in this Grand Jurisdiction, in consequence of the many unfavorable conditions that have confronted us, has not enjoyed the prosperity and progress that many of you doubtless expected, or that has come to us in former years ; yet, while we have not been blessed with a realization of our fondest hopes, I am pleased, indeed, to be able to report that the craft has held well their ground ; our noble principles have lost none of their attractions ; have stood us well in hand ; and and that peace and harmony prevail throughout our borders."

"The murmurings of discontent ; the cry of hard times ; and the depression in all departments of industry, commerce and trade, everywhere heard and felt a year ago, have not abated, but rather increased, as the days have gone by. Our mother earth, drenched by floods, scorched by drouth and swept by the destructive hot wave, has not given back to the husbandman her accustomed yield in return for his labor, and a short crop, with all of its unpleasant effects, is the result. Add to all this the demoralizing effects of the most interesting, exciting and hotly contested political canvass that has, perhaps, engaged the attention of the American people, and we have a catalogue of events that will surely cause the historian to write down the year 1896 as the most remarkable in the history of this country."

Bro. John C. Dye, President of Galloway College at Searcy, presented to the Grand Lodge a scholarship in that college for the daughter of a Master Mason, to be competed for in such manner as the Grand Lodge should prescribe.

The Wisconsin relief proposition was not concurred in.

The Maine proposition, that the effect of a rejection should be limited to five years, was approved by the Grand Lodge.

The proper manner of wearing the apron in the three degrees was decided by the Grand Lodge. In the Fellow Craft degree, the left hand lower corner is turned up.

Bro. Sam H. Davidson has a good report on Correspondence. Canada for 1896 is introduced in this wise :

"They dwell in hyperborean lands
Where icy slumber locks their streams
O'er hills and fields the frost king gleams
But they've warm hearts and open hands."

This delusion, that our country is a land of frost and snow, is hard to dispel. Those who have visited Canada of course know better, and a more intimate acquaintance would develop the fact that, as far as climate is concerned, it is the one spot on earth most desirable for a residence.

In his review of Nevada, Bro. Davidson says :

"We discover from Bro. Doyle's conclusion that the Roman Pontiff has given him a fresh scare by placing under the papal ban three additional American benevolent orders, and that he is afraid the Pon-

tiff aforesaid has sufficient control of this government to dictate the conduct of the people. There is a good deal of poppycock about this periodical scare at the Pope of Rome. We are not afraid of him in Arkansas. He has his hands full at his present job of popping for his church, and from our acquaintance with him we do not think it likely that he would undertake to overmonkey with the brave and warlike people of Nevada 5000 miles away, and during the popping season at that. Suppose we let the Pope of Rome rest awhile and watch 'Auld Cloutie' closer."

And under "New Jersey," he has the following about robes :

"A resolution declaring it to be the sense of the Grand Lodge that the use of robes or costumes in conferring the degrees of Symbolic Masonry is an innovation and to prohibit their use, was very promptly taken up and indefinitely postponed, as it should have been. We are opposed to all sumptuary laws in Masonry or elsewhere. If the brethren who confer degrees in New Jersey feel better or look prettier in robes, they should wear them. The idea that some croaker who does not know whether King Solomon wore fly-front breeches or bifurcated skirts should be allowed to yell innovation every time a fellow gets something that suits his shape and complexion, should not be tolerated."

Lodges 431 : members, 13,264 ; decrease, 157.

C. C. Ayers (Fort Smith), G. M.

Fay Hempstead (Little Rock), G. S.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

25th Communication, Nanaimo, June 18, 1896.

Lacey R. Johnson, G. M.

He opens his address with a hearty greeting to the Silver Wedding of the various lodges that united to form the Grand Lodge 25 years ago.

"Perhaps it will not be altogether out of place at this time, if, for the information of some of the later members of Grand Lodge, I state that it was on the 21st of October, 1871, when the children of the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland who had hitherto worked in British Columbia under a District Deputy Grand Master of England and a Provincial Grand Master of Scotland, were united in the bonds of wedlock, and were henceforth known as the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, its first Grand Master, Israel Wood Powell, and the other Grand Officers being installed by R. W. Robert Burnaby, District Deputy Grand Master of England.

"The new Grand Lodge was organized by representatives of the following eight lodges: Victoria, Nanaimo, and British Columbia, of the United Grand Lodge of England; and Vancouver, Cariboo, Caledonia, Mount Herman and Quadra, of the registry of Scotland. The District Deputy Grand Master of England and the Provincial Grand Master of Scotland co-operated in the formation of the new Grand Lodge."

We also quote the following paragraphs from this very excellent address :

"I have been, sometimes, and especially during the last two or three years, obliged to think that many of us look upon Masonry as a mere rendering of a perfect and beautiful ritual within our Lodge Rooms, and that as long as we are able to see that ritual performed to our satisfaction,—and mind you, we are willing to spend any amount of time and trouble to that end,—we have done our duty as Masons. Brethren, this is not enough, beautiful and instructive as our ritual may be, it is simply the shadow, the substance is not in it, or as an eminent Past Grand Master has so beautifully put it,—‘The ritualistic teachings, however beautiful and instructive they may be, are simply the Key, put into the Mason’s hand, by which he may unlock the great Treasure House, where are garnered the stores of Masonic Truth.

"This truth must be studied and the lessons drawn from it must be practised in the everyday life of the Mason, if the outside world is to be made to believe that Masonry is what we claim it to be. The world is not in possession of our secret signs and words, and therefore only able to judge of Masonry as they see it exemplified in the Masons’ lives. How often, brethren, do they have to judge it as anything but a teacher of morality and virtue, temperance and brotherly love! Too often, I am afraid, we put off our Masonry with our regalia, and leave it locked up in the Lodge Room and forget directly we are outside, what we acknowledged only a few minutes before, viz:—That the All Seeing Eye of the Most High ever beholds us.

"These grand living Truths, brethren, are the bulwarks of our Institution, which have for ages and ages shielded it from the attacks of the cowan and the profane. Let us see to it, therefore, that our bulwarks are kept solid and unbroken, with no breach through which an enemy can throw a dart of reproach. * * *

"This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of our formation as a Sovereign Grand Lodge. A quarter of a century has gone with its achievements and successes, with its weaknesses and failures, and it would be difficult to select a more fitting time to make, so to speak, a fresh start in our Masonic life. You are here, brethren, as the officers and representatives of almost every lodge in our jurisdiction, and I would ask you, one and all, to join with me to-day, in solemnly and firmly resolving, that each in his own lodge will, from this day forward, assisted by the Great Architect of the Universe, try to live more truly than ever before, as a Mason in the highest and broadest sense of the word; and that we will do our utmost to carry out, in every detail, the Divine commands which He has laid down for our guidance in the Volume of the Sacred Law, and not only do that, but that we will point out and explain those laws to the younger members of the institution, and assist them by the daily example of our life and practice. When we do this, we need have no fear of the ultimate destiny of our beloved craft."

A new lodge was formed at Comox, and another at Rossland. The following report on a Masonic Home was adopted :

"1. They consider that the erection or purchase of a building suitable for the purpose of a Masonic Home would require a very much larger sum than the Grand Lodge is likely to have at its disposal for a considerable time to come.

"2. They do not feel warranted in recommending that such a Home should be opened even in rented quarters, until the Grand Lodge can

clearly see its way to meet the annual expense that would be involved in maintaining the Home in a creditable manner. . . . That great difficulty would be experienced in providing annually the amount required for this purpose may be inferred from the difficulty experienced by other Grand Lodges whose membership and resources are vastly in excess of ours. The Grand Lodge of Michigan, for example, has 374 subordinate lodges and 36,500 members, and yet the Grand Secretary of that jurisdiction says: 'With a beautiful and commodious Home completed, and now giving a comfortable home to 25 or 30 worthy inmates, the question of its permanent support is yet problematical. Although Grand Lodge is appropriating from year to year such sums as its financial condition will warrant for the temporary support of the Home, no acceptable plan has yet been devised for its permanent maintenance.' Bearing in mind the financial and numerical weakness of this Grand Lodge as compared with that of Michigan, your committee are of opinion that it will be wise to make haste slowly.

"3. They recognize the extreme desirability of a larger exercise of the distinctively masonic virtue of charity; and as a practical step in the direction indicated by M. W. Bro. McMicking they recommend that the cases of any children of deceased Masons in this jurisdiction who have been left in destitute circumstances be at once reported to the charity committee of Grand Lodge, and that the said committee be authorized to arrange for such children being cared for in some of the orphanages already established, drawing upon the Charity Fund for this purpose, if necessary, to the extent of \$500, in aggregate, and reporting the same to the next meeting of Grand Lodge."

The Wisconsin relief proposition was ordered to be sent to the lodges for consideration.

The report on Correspondence is by Bro. Marcus Wolfe, and contains a review of our Proceedings for 1895.

Past Masters have membership in Grand Lodge with full voting powers.

Bro. Wolfe is in line with the rest of us in his condemnation of perpetual jurisdiction. He also commends the prohibition of the Past Master's degree.

Lodges, 24; members, 1272; increase, 52.

Alex. Charleston (New Westminster), G. M.

W. J. Quinlan (Victoria), G. S.

CALIFORNIA.

47th Communication, San Francisco, October 13, 1896.

Edward M. Preston, G. M.

On the state of the Craft, he says:

"Our relations with neighboring and foreign jurisdictions are of the most cordial and friendly nature. Our returns show, for the present year, a net increase of over seven hundred in the membership of the subordinate lodges. Our financial condition, notwithstanding our large expenditures, is better than it was at the time of our last

annua communication. Three new lodges have received charters, two others have been organized and have received dispensations, and no lodge has been called upon to surrender its charter. The financial condition of the subordinate lodges is, as a general rule, favorable, although some are suffering from causes incident to the commercial and industrial depression which is now so generally prevalent."

All the decisions of the Grand Master were confirmed by the Grand Lodge. Some of these rulings show how careful they are of the funds of private lodges, for instance :

"Lodge funds cannot be used either to purchase jewels for retiring officers or to purchase portraits of such officers to ornament the walls of the lodge room.

"A retiring Master has no right to demand or receive from his lodge any sum whatever in return for his services as installing officer of his successor in office.

"A lodge cannot lawfully expend any portion of its funds to pay for the experting of the books of a private corporation, even although such corporation owns the cemetery in which the lodge buries the bodies of its deceased members.

"Neither a Masonic lodge nor a Masonic board of relief can lawfully donate twenty dollars nor any other sum to the Salvation Army for charitable distribution.

"For a lodge to pass a resolution remitting the dues of all its members for one year, or for any other stated period, or to adopt a resolution or general regulation whereby it appropriates a stated sum for funeral expenses for each and every member that dies, is a misappropriation of its funds. The remission of dues and funeral benefits are charities which should be bestowed on the needy and destitute only.

"A lodge must not negotiate a loan of its funds on a note and mortgage on the resident premises of the widow of a deceased Mason. Masonic charity should be direct, and should never be so conditioned as to endanger the forfeiture of the homestead of its beneficiaries."

The first, third and fourth of the above decisions would not be thought applicable in our jurisdiction, as our lodges are allowed considerably more latitude in the disposition of their funds.

We also copy with approval the following rulings, as containing some new points. We would, however, modify the third by adding: "unless extraordinary precautions were taken to secure perfect secrecy."

"Masonic emblems must not be printed upon a ball ticket.

"No Mason can be placed on trial in his lodge for alleged offenses against regulations of the Order of the Eastern Star, or for offenses committed during secret session of, and relating to the affairs of that Order only.

"In the construction of a Masonic Temple, or hall, the lodge room should not be built upon the ground floor.

"It is contrary to Masonic teachings and Masonic usage to serve beer, wine, or any other intoxicant at a Masonic banquet given in a Masonic hall.

"The members of a lodge who assemble for the sole purpose of attending religious services are not permitted to wear their regalia on parade or at church.

"The non-observance of the first day of the week, either as a day of rest or for the performance of religious devotion, does not constitute a Masonic reason for the rejection of an applicant for the degrees of Masonry. Masonry regards neither sect nor creed in its religious requirements.

"The widow of a deceased Master Mason who was in good standing at the time of his death, but whose lodge has subsequently surrendered its charter, becomes a charge, if needy, upon the charities of the lodge within whose jurisdiction she resides.

"Separate dispensations may be issued, and separate fees paid, for each application to rebalot on rejected candidates for the degrees, even though two or more dispensations are asked for by any one lodge at one time.

"The act of cremating the body of a deceased Mason does not constitute a Masonic burial. The performance of the ceremonies of our ritual for burial would not be appropriate on such an occasion."

They had a clandestine French lodge in Los Angeles which applied for some recognition in 1894. Since then they have surrendered their charter to France, and the Grand Master authorized the healing of the members who received the degrees in a regular lodge. It is expected that they will apply to be formed into a new lodge.

New lodges were opened at Needles and Long Beach.

In his official visits the Grand Master was impressed with the commendable uniformity of the work. He was not able to give a general review of the condition of the lodges as less than one-half of the Inspectors sent in reports.

On the second day of the session the corner stone was laid of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home at Decoto. All the funds necessary for the building will doubtless be forthcoming as the enthusiasm of the craft in this matter has been marked.

The Grand Lecturer, William E Sloan, presented an exceptionally able report. His opening remarks indicate his high ideal :

"On entering upon the duties of Grand Lecturer one year ago I was not unmindful of the grave responsibilities I was then assuming. I knew that much would be expected of me, and that on no other subject were the craft so punctilious and exacting as upon the accuracy of the secret work and lectures and the manner of presenting the same by the Grand Lecturer.

"I recognized that I should be as perfect in the symbolism as in the mere formula and language of the work, and should be able to give an intelligent reason for everything taught, to the end that the great moral truths therein contained might be fully understood.

"I also knew that I would be expected to make myself master of all the ceremonies of our order, and to give instruction in the manner of rendering them the most striking and effective. I knew that I would be plied with hundreds of questions on matters of jurisprudence, to

which I ought to be able to give an intelligent opinion, and thereby save the Grand Master a large amount of needless correspondence. In a word, I knew that many eyes would be upon me, and that much hard work was in store for me. Whether or not I have discharged this trust I leave to the judgment of my brethren for whom I have labored and their representatives in Grand Lodge assembled. It is due me to say, however, that during the winter months I was not able to do as much work as I had intended, owing to ill health which was brought on by a severe attack of la grippe."

He also complains of the existence of a large number of Masonic tramps in all parts of the state.

New Zealand and Victoria were recognized.

The Maine proposition making the effect of a rejection limited to five years, was considered, but California has a rule making rejection a bar for only one year, and they do not think it wise to make any change in that respect.

An application was received to open an English speaking lodge in the city of Paris, France. This was denied for the reason that to grant it would be a violation of the law of exclusive jurisdiction, "which is so strenuously enforced by this Grand Lodge."

The following report was adopted :

"Bro. R. H. Lloyd presented the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, that any working tool of this order presented to any Grand Master to be used by him in officiating at, or assisting in, performing any ceremony which this Grand Lodge may be invited to perform, shall be deposited with the Grand Treasurer, to be held by the Grand Lodge in commemoration of the event.

"Your committee are of the opinion that a testimonial presented to a Grand Master in recognition of some official public act, like the one in question, is incidental to the honorable position which he holds and should be regarded as a personal souvenir of the occasion. Such testimonials, inscribed with the recipient's name, the date and the occasion of such service, are treasured as mementoes and are highly prized. They are evidences of the honor and esteem which you, as a Grand Lodge of Masons, have conferred upon our brethren. They are treasured with commendable pride during the lifetime of the individual, are bequeathed to loved ones when he has passed away, and your committee considers it unfair that the Grand Lodge should thus demand that these testimonials be surrendered. We recommend that the resolution be not adopted."

Important action was taken as to the work by the adoption of the following preamble and resolution :

"The Grand Lodge having determined that a revision of the work and ritual of the jurisdiction is desirable for the purpose of restoring the text to the work as the same was adopted and made obligatory upon the lodges in October, 1864 ;

"*Be it Resolved*, That the committee on revision appointed at the present session be and they are hereby directed to ascertain, by such

method as they may deem most reliable and expedient, the several expressions referred to in the address of the Grand Master 'as at variance with the original authorized text,' to the end that the work and ritual of this jurisdiction may be restored to the system adopted in 1864; and they are hereby authorized to make the necessary corrections for the accomplishment of that purpose and to prepare for the exemplification of said revised and corrected work at the next annual communication of Grand Lodge.

"In addition to said corrections said committee will further, in accordance with the recommendation of the Grand Master in his address and affirmed by the Grand Lodge, proceed to make the necessary changes in the ceremonial of the second section of the third degree, to harmonize said ceremonial and make it more 'in conformity with the work of the principal Grand Jurisdictions east of the Rocky Mountains,' and to suggest such changes in the phraseology as shall make the revised ritual 'consistent with the traditions upon which the scenes exemplified are founded.'

"When adopted and made obligatory upon the lodges, such revised ritual shall be placed in charge of three custodians of the work to be hereafter appointed by the Grand Master."

The report on Correspondence is again by Bro. William A. Davis, and is full of good things, but our limit is nearly reached. On the question of incorporation, he says :

"At the last session of Congress an act was passed incorporating the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory, but failed of passage in the Senate, for which we think the brethren should be thankful. Why in the name of masonry they should wish to 'sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded,' in any court of law or equity we don't understand. Probably when some constituent attempts to expel John Smith for gross, unmasonic conduct, and John Smith, by his attorney, serves the Master, Wardens and brethren with a writ directing them to show cause why they should not be enjoined from trespassing upon the rights of John Smith by expelling him from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, then and not until then, will they appreciate in all its far reaching excellence the incorporation of Grand Lodge or its subordinates."

We also approve of the following :

"Perpetual jurisdiction or 'perpetual objection,' as our Pennsylvania brethren denominate the regulation, is an unauthorized assumption of jurisdiction as unmasonic as it is unnatural and injurious to the fraternity; it is no part of the American system and has no home elsewhere. It must go, and we trust by general consent and the adoption of some rule which shall be observed by all."

In his review of Canada for 1895, he says that our Board of General Purposes has a most thorough system for ascertaining the condition and prospects of the lodges.

Lodges, 262 ; members, 18,208 ; increase, 777.

William T. Lucas (Santa Maria), G. M.

George Johnson (San Francisco), G. S.

COLORADO.

36th Communication, Denver, Sept. 3, 1896.

William D. Pierce, G. M.

On the condition of the Craft he says :

"I am pleased to report to you, judging from my correspondence, visitations and observations, that the Craft in our jurisdiction is in a fair state of prosperity, notwithstanding the continued financial depression. While there has been but little work, as compared with former years, the material presented, I am advised, has been of excellent character. The reports of lodges show the membership to be about the same as last year.

"It is pleasant to report that no grievance of any moment has been brought to my notice, that has not been amicably adjusted ; and no internal dissensions exist, to disturb the peace and harmony of our lodges.

"The general financial condition of a majority of our subordinate lodges is not as good as we would like. The constant drain upon them for charitable purposes during the past few years, and the fraternal courtesies extended to many of the members, have left depleted treasuries. However, we cannot but feel encouraged at the prospect of a bright future, and as the dark clouds lift, we catch glimpses of the silver lining."

The Grand Master also says, with reference to the Wisconsin relief proposition, that he can find no Masonic law or precedent, either ancient or modern, which can justify placing charity, the keystone of our moral arch, on the same level with health insurance.

He appointed R. W. Bro. Arthur McGinnis as their representative in place of Bro. F. J. Menet, deceased.

A new lodge was formed at Mancos.

The Grand Master visited a number of lodges and found good work, neat records and accurate officers.

The following amended by-law was passed :

"No. 83. Non-affiliation is cause for discipline, and all non-affiliates who have not made application for membership in some lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction within one year shall not be entitled to visit any lodge more than twice during the year, or join any Masonic procession, nor be entitled, as a matter of right, to Masonic relief or burial."

On the relief proposal the following was adopted :

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Colorado declines to endorse the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, for the reason that it is opposed to the introduction into the system of Freemasonry of any feature that tends in the direction of compulsory relief."

As they have a surplus of about \$2,000 on hand, 25 per cent. of the capita tax was refunded to the lodges.

Canada for 1895 is reviewed with the rest by Bro. Lawrence N. Greenleaf in his usual able manner. Bro. Greenleaf thus

continues his refutation of the modern idea that our esoteric work was not in existence before 1717 :

" We have shown upon the authority of Brother Condor's history that prior to 1631 there was a lodge of Free Masons attached to and working in harmony with the Masons' Company, of London, and holding its meetings in the Masons' hall. Members of the company, unless also members of the fraternity, were not admitted to the lodge. This disposes of the 1717 theory of our origin, and corroborates the tradition of the craft that our ancient brethren worked both in operative and speculative Masonry. There is nothing unreasonable in the supposition that this lodge of 1631 was in possession of the esotery which has descended to us, and also many essential features which were lost when Masonry suffered a decline. The fact that the year 1717 is referred to as the period of the revival is evidence of the fact that there was something to revive, otherwise the word is a misnomer. Our esotery embraces all that was in the possession of the four old London lodges which formed the Grand Lodge of England, together with what was recovered from old brethren who joined in the new movement. The antiquity of Masonry as set forth in its traditions is thus established beyond question. Whether the system was the result of a 'flash of inspiration' or prolonged incubation of thought, that it was 'divinely inspired' is very generally admitted."

We are quite prepared to be convinced that our work is not only antique, but also unique, but to claim that it was "divinely inspired" causes some slight hesitation. Nor were we aware that that claim was "generally admitted." We are not yet reconciled to the doctrine of the infallibility of the Pope, and there are some few other matters about which our convictions are in suspense, and we fear that this "inspired" claim will have to be taken into consideration for a while.

Lodges, 89 ; members, 7,257 ; increase, 234.

George W. Roe (Pueblo), G. M.

Ed. C. Parmelee (Denver), G. S.

CONNECTICUT.

109th Communication, New Haven, January 20, 1897.

James H. Welsh, G. M.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions prevailing during the past year, there has been a fair degree of prosperity, and it may be said that the lodges were never in better condition.

It was resolved that any lodge may strike from the roll the name of any brother who has not been heard from for the seven preceding years.

There are 24 inmates in the Home. The average age of those admitted during the year was 72.

The use of robes in conferring the third degree is practiced in Connecticut.

Bro. John H. Barlow reports on Correspondence and reviews our Proceedings for 1896, giving several extracts.

In his conclusion he says :

"The condition of Masonry in Mexico has also been prominently presented and the Gran Dieta, so called, has been recognized by the Grand Lodges of Texas, New York, Kansas and North Dakota, and is favorably noticed in some other jurisdictions, but we do not believe the time has come for general recognition."

Lodges, 111 ; members 16,813 ; increase, 181.

George A. Kies (Norwich), G. M.

John H. Barlow (Hartford), G. S.

DELAWARE.

90th Communication, Wilmington, Oct. 7, 1896.

Joseph L. Cahall, G. M.

The condition of the Craft is thus detailed :

"Prosperity and success have attended the efforts of the several lodges within this jurisdiction to a most marked degree when the conditions of the temporal world be considered. The reports from the several subordinate lodges will reveal that there have been raised, admitted, and reinstated in the aggregate, 111 ; as against dismissions, deaths, suspensions, and expulsions, 54 ; showing a net gain for the past year of 57. Every lodge has had a fair number of candidates.

"In view of the crisis in the business world, the panic in the financial marts, the general upheaval of affairs, the continued unsettled condition in every phase of life, during the most remarkable years of 1895-96, I am constrained to say and believe that the progress made by our craft is most gratifying and highly satisfactory.

"It is well to realize that numbers alone can by no means be taken as a sure and certain criterion of growth of our fraternity. Numbers are desirable provided numbers be not obtained by too great cost, consequent upon the indifference or laxity of care exercised by the investigation committee and the individual brethren. True growth is measured rather by the acquisition of knowledge and the firm purpose of exemplifying in the lives of the individual brethren the several Masonic virtues. I am pleased to say that growth of this character has been marked and manifest in all directions."

The Grand Master visited all the lodges and some of them twice. A school of instruction was held in Wilmington twice a month, but the attendance appears to have been spasmodic :

"That body of bright Masons, aggregated in the lodge of instruction, for the purpose of equipping those offices and brethren who are solicitous of acquiring the uniform work in its complete and perfect state, have repeatedly met during the past year with no one present to instruct—none sufficiently anxious to acquire the uniform work to attend its sessions. At times the chairman and members of

this committee almost felt that their occupation had gone. The lodge of instruction continued regularly to hold its stated meetings, however, notwithstanding the depressing effect of manifest indifference on the part of the craft. Heroically they persisted in the performance of duty with practically little evidence of sympathy, or intention, or wish on the part of the brethren to profit by the golden opportunity which lay at their feet. This condition prevailed during the year until the approaching election of officers, whereupon the lodge of instruction became the Mecca for every prospective or newly elect officer. The individual members of the lodge of instruction suddenly became in the hour of need of these brethren, the most popular and genial good fellows in the jurisdiction. When necessity was not pressing the work exemplified by the lodge of instruction was 'fuss and feathers,' when danger was impending, 'what excellence!' 'how superb!' 'what perfection!!!' This condition is not as it should be. The lodge of instruction has functions of great usefulness and should be continued, notwithstanding the apparent lack of appreciation on the part of the brethren. The lodge of instruction, while in theory intended for and open to the brethren of the whole jurisdiction, is in practice by reason of circumstances an institution of and for the brethren resident in the city of Wilmington and the territory contiguous thereto. But the lodge of instruction alone will never be able to place in all constituent lodges of this jurisdiction the esoteric portion of our ritual. Some other means or method must be found to subserve this end. All praise to the arduous, painstaking and persistent efforts of the present and all past members of the lodge of instruction. Theirs has been a noble work—a work of love for, and devotion to, the highest and best of our beautiful and philosophical ritual. Their reward is in their action and efforts displayed. Their appreciation is not lacking in the hearts of those brethren who are devoted to our royal craft."

A proposal to adopt a uniform set of by-laws was negatived.

The Wisconsin relief proposition was again declined.

The following report on a Masonic Home was adopted :

"Your committee to which was referred the matter of considering the formation of a home for aged and indigent Masons respectfully report that they deem it inadvisable to establish a home for the purpose stated, as the expense to the Masons of the jurisdiction would be greater than their ability to bear; they desire that the committee may be continued, to consider the advisability of arranging with an established institution for the care of Masons who may need the protecting care of such a home.

"As there are now two Masons of this jurisdiction in the care of 'Minquadale Home for Aged Men and Couples,' we would recommend the appropriation of one hundred dollars from the Grand Charity Fund toward the expense of that institution."

Bro. Lewis H. Jackson has a good report on Correspondence, in which our Proceedings of 1895 receive flattering attention.

Lodges, 20 ; members, 2,077 ; increase, 57.

J. Paul Lukens (Wilmington), G. M.

Benjamin F. Bartram (Wilmington), G. S.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

86th Communication, Washington, Nov. 11, 1896.

George W. Baird, G. M.

The social improvement of the Craft is quite noticeable. The uniform efforts of the Masters to do more impressive work is an evidence of their better conception of our beautiful symbolism, its elevating influences and its impression upon the hearts and memories of the candidates. The increased number of rejections points to the vigilance of the lodges and lends a distinction to those who have been accepted.

A site for the new Masonic Temple is to be secured at once.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

The Grand Secretary was absent through illness, which also prevented the completion of his Correspondence report. On the subject of the control of Grand Lodges by the Past Masters Bro. Singleton has the following remarks :

"In some Grand Lodges the hold-over Past Grand Officers and Past Masters are life members, but they should never, *never* be of such numbers or voting power as to outnumber or outvote the representatives of the constituent lodges. These last should always be in the majority and look well to their rights of control. It has become too much the custom for the lodges to yield their rights to the old life members of the Grand Lodges and permit them to control legislation. We have great confidence in their experience in Masonic matters, but it is human nature, pure and simple, for man to *usurp*, when he thinks he can do so, and we have noticed in all of our Grand Lodge legislation where, constantly, there is an effort to get entire control of the Grand lodges by those old stagers and thus make our institution an oligarchy."

Lodges, 25 ; members, 5118 ; increase, 168.

Matthew Trimble (Washington), G. M.

William R. Singleton (Washington), G. S.

FLORIDA.

68th Communication, Jacksonville, January 19, 1897.

James W. Boyd, G. M.

Three new lodges were opened. Twelve lodges had their halls destroyed by a cyclone. The following extracts from the address of the Grand Master disclose the situation :

"Although storm and disaster have been the portion of the inhabitants of a large area of our fair State, yet we have been blessed in health and sufficient store, and absolute want is unknown, and the spectre of pestilence has not entered our borders. Notwithstanding the chastening rod has fallen heavily, yet out of the chastisement comes fortitude, strength and courage, and we already begin to see the light of a brighter day dawning, and approaching pros-

perity promising greater stability by reason of the severe discipline."

"On the 29th day of September a terrific storm entered the State from the Gulf of Mexico centrally over the town of Cedar Keys, and swept through the middle part of the state in a northeasterly direction, cutting a swath about thirty miles wide, leaving in its wake demolished towns, farms, dwellings and timber, many lodge buildings were completely annihilated, and the brethren bereft of shelter, with dwellings, crops and stock destroyed, were in no condition to rebuild unaided. To such lodges as have applied, I have approved their appeals for aid to rebuild."

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

"Owing to the stringency of the times the District Deputy Grand Masters have refrained from making thorough visitations so as to save to the Lodges the expenses, confining their visits principally to such as extended invitation. They generally report the lodges in a good healthy condition, notwithstanding the distress of hard times, some 'dead wood' trimmed out, and some good material added. A few of the weaker lodges being forced to surrender their charters."

The Cuban question was again up and the following report of the Committee on Jurisprudence was adopted :

"A communication from the W. M. of Francisco V. Aguilera Lodge No. 147, presents the case of an applicant for affiliation who holds a demit from a lodge in Cuba, formerly chartered by the Grand Lodge or Orient of Spain. It is stated that there were opposing Grand Lodges in Cuba and that the differences were finally adjusted by a mutual recognition of the Grand Lodge of Cuba as the supreme authority. After this adjustment, all regular lodges were under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, and it is presumed that all lodges there, formerly holding charters from the Grand Lodge or Orient of Spain were required to present their claims to the other jurisdiction so that their regularity might be passed upon. The demit in the present case should be presented to the proper officers of the Grand Lodge of Cuba for a determination as to its regularity. It cannot be received in this Grand Jurisdiction upon its face, as this Grand Body does not recognize the Grand Lodge or Orient of Spain as a Masonic body, but if the Grand Lodge of Cuba accepted by the terms of the adjustment jurisdiction over the dimittes of the Spanish Lodges, and passes favorably upon the regularity and sufficiency of this demit, it should be accepted by Francisco V. Aguilera Lodge."

Lodges, 153; members, 4393; increase, 44.

James M. Hilliard (Pensacola), G. M.

Wilber P. Webster (Jacksonville), G. S.

GEORGIA.

110th Communication, Macon, Oct. 27, 1896.

John P. Shannon, G. M.

The Grand Master visited almost every part of the jurisdiction, from the mountains to the seaboard and opened seven new lodges. On their condition, he says :

"Our State has been convulsed with political excitement, financial depression has impoverished our people, commercial, manufacturing, agricultural and professional business have all been unprofitable, but through it all our Royal Craft has grown in numbers and increased in moral influence more than in many years past. Men may be poor, business may be stagnated, politics appear absorbing, but Masonry, as long as its precepts are practiced, will command the approval and receive the support of all who understand and appreciate a society whose sole aim is the mental and moral improvement of mankind. Our numerical increase is not large, but the men who have joined our ranks during the year are almost without exception the best in the State. Causes which need not be named have in the past permitted some unworthy persons to gain membership, but gradually such have disappeared from our rolls and their places have been supplied with better material. This was noticed last year, it is even more apparent now."

The District Deputies have done their duty well. Their efforts to secure uniformity of work have been persistent and generally resulted in ready acceptance.

Eleven lodges sent out appeals for assistance.

The Grand Master appointed a representative near the Grand Lodge of Italy.

The lodges are divided on the question of building a Home. Replies were received from 225 lodges, 157 were opposed to building and 62 in favor of it.

The Grand Master strongly recommended a reduction of expenses, especially in the mileage. He says that no other jurisdiction pays as much mileage and per diem as they do, and that the delegates receive sixteen cents a mile more than it costs them to travel and they are gradually going into debt. When this matter came up for discussion, several amendments reducing the mileage were submitted, but they were all laid on the table. The only one that met with success was that no delegate should receive more than was paid in by his lodge.

Economy, however, was really commenced by taking \$200 off the salary of the unfortunate Grand Secretary. The delegates appear to have been quite willing to sacrifice all "their wife's relations," but their own little perquisites must not be touched. Really it seems to us very like a fraud on the lodges that a man should take as his expenses of travel to the Grand Lodge some five times as much as it actually costs him. No wonder they are going in debt.

We notice also that the salary of the Correspondence reporter was cut down from \$150 to \$50.

Liquor sellers were excluded by the adoption of the following :

"Resolved by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, in the 110th Annual Communication assembled, That from and after the passage of this edict

no man who deals or traffics in intoxicating liquors shall be eligible to membership to any lodge in this jurisdiction. This shall not affect the standing of any who are already members of the order, but the Grand Lodge most earnestly urges all brethren engaged in the liquor business to find some other occupation not contrary to the laws and principles of true Masonry as well as of the laws of God."

The Grand Master received a cordial vote of thanks, especially for his almost unprecedented feat of dispatching all the business of the Grand Lodge in two days and thereby saving about \$1,200.

Lodges, 410 ; members, 17,317 ; increase, 479.

James W. Taylor (Luthersville), G. M.

A. M. Wolihin (Macon), G. S.

IDAHO.

29th Communication, Boise, Sept. 8, 1896.

Isidore S. Weiller, G. M.

He reports two new lodges.

The following suggestions of the Grand Lecturer were adopted :

"I would therefore suggest that the work of the Grand Lecturer be changed for the coming year, and that three days prior to the assembling of our next Grand Lodge he call a school of instruction to meet in Boise, and to continue in session until after the adjournment of the Grand Lodge. I would make it compulsory on the part of the constituent lodges that the duly accredited paid representatives to the Grand Lodge attend this school of instruction and receive the work. I would also suggest that these delegates be allowed *per diem* for the three days they are in attendance at this school, and that the Grand Lecturer be allowed travelling expenses and *per diem* while conducting this school of instruction."

A special committee was appointed to consider the serious subjects of non-affiliation and non-payment of dues and report next year.

Masonic Life Insurance Companies should be inspected :

"Whereas, There are a number of life insurance associations doing business within several of the Masonic Grand Jurisdictions of the United States, and

"Whereas, These associations invite and solicit patronage and membership from Master Masons in good standing only, and

"Whereas, The financial responsibility of these associations is not established ; therefore be it

"Resolved, That for the protection of the members of our fraternity against imposition by fraudulent or irresponsible associations organized for the purpose of insuring the lives of Master Masons, it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that the attention of our sister Grand Lodges, in whose jurisdiction these associations are established, is hereby directed to the foregoing, that they may take such

action as will prevent a further recurrence as instanced in the Most Worshipful Grand Master's address upon this subject."

May 30th is Memorial Day, and the lodges may hold memorial services and decorate the graves of the fraternal dead without a dispensation therefor in the future.

A revised Code of Laws was authorized to be compiled.

The Grand Lodges of Victoria and Oklahoma were recognized.

The representative tax was raised from fifty cents to eighty cents per capita.

In his review of Alabama, the Grand Secretary has the following forcible remarks on the use of ciphers :

"We are perfectly in accord with his energetic views on the cipher innovation, which menaces the very existence of this ancient and honorable institution. There was a time when Masons loved to come together for mutual, intellectual, and social improvement. At those meetings, held for instruction, minds were directed into those fathomless channels of Masonic knowledge, the result being the development of profound students of jurisprudence and the higher perfections of Masonic philosophy. The ritual was well learned and thoroughly explained. The art of delivery was fully practiced, in order to attain that polish and smoothness that has charmed the ears of an entire lodge. Now, with this innovation, how is it? The meetings are discontinued, for very few will come. The stated meetings are sparsely attended. The bright Masons are rapidly growing scarcer. Text books remain closed on dusty shelves. The word jurisprudence is scarce heard outside of Grand Lodge. Why? Because each one has a cipher, and being able to read considers it a waste of time to follow the old plan. With a smattering gained from the infernal thing, he imagines he knows all of Masonry, and goes on his way, each day becoming more and more indifferent to the glories and beauties of Freemasonry. It is a positive fact, brethren, that these keys will sap our life blood if continued."

Canada for 1895 as a good notice.

Lodges, 29 ; members, 1,152 ; increase, 68.

Fred. G. Mock (Nampa), G. M.

Charles C. Stevenson (Boise), G. S.

ILLINOIS.

57th Communication, Chicago, Oct. 6, 1896.

Owen Scott, G. M.

He reports five new lodges. On fraudulent books he says :

"It came to my knowledge that certain brethren were being deceived by the representations of publishers of books and documents purporting to contain the standard secret work of this jurisdiction. In two of the lodges charges were preferred against certain brethren for disseminating these fraudulent publications. The charges were sustained, the brethren both found guilty and regularly suspended. On which I felt that the attention of the craft should again be called

to the fact that there is no book, key or document containing the secret or esoteric work of this grand jurisdiction."

He thus commends a most admirable feature of their work, which is happily growing more in favor among the brethren :

"It is the custom of some lodges to hold what they term 'conclaves.' A whole day and evening are given to work. Lodges are invited for many miles around. The lodge sending the invitation will have the first, second and third degrees, and invite a neighboring lodge to do the work in one degree and another in another. Some have three or four candidates for the third and divide up in this. In the evening there is a grand Masonic rally attended by hundreds. Such meetings during the past year have had from three to four hundred Masons present, and in some cases as many as thirty lodges have been represented, almost rivaling the interest and value of our superb schools. The good of such gatherings is inestimable. It brings the brethren closer together and stimulates them to better work and higher standards."

We also quote his remarks on their Schools of Instruction, which form another excellent feature in Illinois Masonry :

"There is no abatement in the zeal and interest in the schools held at five places in the state for instruction in the standard work of our jurisdiction. It was my privilege to be present at all of these schools and witness the magnificent spirit, the earnest devotion, and and thorough loyalty to Masonry displayed by the hundreds of Craftsmen who assembled at each place. These schools are the power house which generates the electric currents of Fraternity, permeating the Craft to the uttermost parts of our great commonwealth. In addition to the excellent work of our Board of Grand Examiners in the esoteric work of Freemasonry, the Grand Master at each place availed himself of the opportunity of holding a council with the worshipful masters and other representatives of lodges present. The various details of lodge management, the laws, rules and regulations of Masonry, and many matters of general interest were discussed, to the profit and enlightenment of all. There is, therefore, a three-fold benefit to be derived from these schools, viz.: a greater perfection in the standard work, a more complete knowledge of the law and usage, and the development of a burning enthusiasm for Ancient Craft Masonry. Much of the success of our great institution in Illinois is the result of the wise provision this Grand Lodge has made 'for thorough instruction in the work and lectures already established.'"

The Grand Master decided that a ballot must be had for each elective officer, although there may be only one brother in nomination, because the brethren have the power to vote for and elect one who may not be in nomination at all.

The following is also correct Masonic law :

"The question has been frequently asked whether a man who is constantly travelling and has no fixed residence can petition a lodge for the degrees of Masonry. He cannot. He must, under section 2, article XII, part two, Grand Lodge by-laws, have a legal residence in the State one year and in the jurisdiction of the lodge six months. A man who has no fixed abode or legal residence cannot petition any lodge in Illinois.

Upon the important question of Life Membership, we give the very able remarks of the Grand Master, and also the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge :

"Many difficulties during the past year have grown out of provisions for life memberships. While young the lodge suffers little, but as it grows older confusion and embarrassment multiply. There are two methods in vogue. One is by paying a lump sum in advance. This plan is least objectionable but it has its serious complications. The lodge uses the money thus paid, thereby mortgaging the future. Later financial complications arise and these life members are exempt from all dues. Grand Lodge dues must be paid by the lodge. The life member as he pays nothing is a positive load to carry, for Grand Lodge dues must be paid on him. Faith must be kept with these life members. The contract was made and cannot be broken without their consent. The law can be repealed and further complications avoided but the existing status must be maintained. The by-laws cannot be so changed as to make them subject to dues. The other way is still worse. It provides that the lodge by vote may make life members of all who have each year paid their dues for a fixed term of years. When one member is placed on the roll and exempted from dues all others are equally entitled to the same consideration when they finish the specified period. Practically all must be made life members. Gradually there grows up a favored class. Such a system has proven not only useless, but positively harmful. There is little justice in it. Often those most able to pay are thus exempted from all expenses of the lodge. The poorer brethren are paying for lights, fuel, rent and other necessities enjoyed by the wealthier. What credit is a member entitled to who pays his annual dues? He simply has borne his equal share of maintaining the lodge, the privileges of which he has enjoyed. He paid for what he got. If he pays annually for twenty or fifty years he simply does his duty each year. Who can object to paying on an average less than a cent a day to maintain Masonry in the community in which he lives? No one who is a Mason at heart. Our provisions for honorary membership apply only to members of other lodges. No one can be made an honorary member of his own lodge. Life membership and exemption from dues, based on the payment annually of no greater sum than that required of every other member, is practically doing by indirection what by our law can not be done directly. It creates a privileged class and makes resentment among those who are paying the expenses. The class of life members who have done nothing more than pay their regular lodge dues have no contract rights. The by-law can be repealed and the members put on the paying list from the date of the change. Of course back dues could not be collected. On the whole, it seems, from present experience, far wiser to abolish all provisions for life membership involving exemption from paying an equal share in the burdens of lodge and Grand Lodge. Brethren able to pay cannot complain. If there are those too poor they should have their dues promptly and cheerfully remitted." * * *

"Upon the subject of life membership, embodied in the Grand Master's report and referred, your committee report that while the provisions for the creation of this class of membership in our lodges

has long been in vogue, your committee is of opinion that the Grand Master presents some potent reasons for the abolishment of the custom, or at least in favor of a modification of the provisions under which members may acquire life membership in their respective lodges. To resort to the radical change contemplated by the former suggestion would be apt to disturb a custom among our lodges, which has hitherto been recognized as a feature of lodge government neither sanctioned nor challenged by Grand Lodge. Under these conditions many lodges and brethren have in good faith mutually entered into relations that should not be rudely disturbed at this late day. But for the future, the methods heretofore in force touching the subject of life membership, may be modified and made uniform by an amendment to Grand Lodge By-laws, which your committee recommend, by adding to Section 2. Article X, Part Second (and such other sections and articles as may be necessary), as follows :

“Lodges may provide by law for the grade of life membership, to which their *own members only* shall be eligible, upon the payment of a fee by such member or members of not less than \$75 in a single payment. ‘*Life membership*’ shall not be acquired in any other manner. Any brother availing himself of these provisions shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of common membership, and be subject to all the provisions of lodge and Grand Lodge by-laws and regulations; *Provided*, however, nothing herein shall be construed to in any manner affect any right acquired by brethren of the constituent lodges by virtue of any pre-existing law or regulation of said lodges.”

A proposal to recognize the National Grand Lodge of Egypt, of which Idris Ragheb Bey is the Grand Master, was referred to the committee on Correspondence, but does not appear to have been reported upon at this session.

The following amended by-law was carried unanimously :

“Art. XXXII, Part II, Sec. 7. No Mason shall give the Masonic name to any business concern, association, or calling organized or prosecuted for profit or for a livelihood. No Mason shall use or be a party to the using of the Masonic name as a part of the style and title and designation of any business firm, concern, company, association, or enterprise, unless such business shall be the printing or publishing of Masonic books, papers, or periodicals, or the manufacture and sale of Masonic supplies.”

A resolution was passed that it is the sense of the Grand Lodge that the Grand Master should not succeed himself in office.

The following was adopted :

“*Resolved*, That the committee on Masonic correspondence be, and is hereby instructed to prepare, in alphabetical order, the name and location of all the Grand Lodges of Craft Masonry in the world which are recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois as regularly and legitimately exercising Masonic authority, in their respective jurisdictions, and be it further

“*Resolved*, That in conjunction therewith that same committee prepare, in like manner, a list of the names and locations of all alleged Grand Lodges or other bodies or association of persons pretending to exercise Masonic authority over, or the government of.

Ancient Craft Masonry, in any empire, dominion, or country in the world, together with the information that no person or persons claiming to hail from or to be identified with such bodies or associations is or are wholly ineligible to the *privilege* of visitation to any lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

“Resolved further, That the Grand Secretary is ordered to have printed, in convenient form for ready reference, the lists herein proposed, and transmit a copy thereof to each and every lodge in the State of Illinois with an abstract of our laws and regulations appertaining to visitation.”

The oration delivered by the Grand Orator, R. W. Bro. Adlai E. Stevenson, is an eloquent and admirable production, and we are sorry that we have not space to do justice to its merits, which no extracts will do.

The Grand Lodge of Cuba was recognized.

Bro. R. T. Spencer presented the Grand Lodge with a setting maul, with the following remarks :

“During the past summer I had the pleasure of visiting some of the Masonic lodges in England, Ireland and Scotland, and at all of them was received in the most cordial manner. I was specially well pleased with my reception at Mother Kilwinning Lodge, situated at Kilwinning, Scotland. This lodge is unique in several particulars. It claims to be the oldest lodge in existence ; it is the only constituent lodge in the world that has no number ; and its presiding officer has the title of M. W. Grand Master.

“The lodge room is built within the precincts of the ruined abbey of Kilwinning, which was erected in 1140, and which was the handiwork of a body of operative Masons, from whom are descended some of the speculative Masons who now form Mother Kilwinning Lodge.

“One of the officers kindly gave me this setting maul, an implement which in Scottish lodges is used by the presiding officer instead of the common gavel. This maul is of historic interest. The oak of which it is made, grew centuries ago, upon the hills of sunny Spain. It formed a part of a spar of one of the ships of the Spanish Armada, that ill-fated squadron which in 1588 sailed across the Bay of Biscay, and up the English Channel for the purpose of attacking Great Britain. This ship was wrecked upon the coast and dashed to pieces, and its remains were afterwards used in part in the roof of the lodge room of Mother Kilwinning. Two years ago, when their new hall was built, those ancient timbers were made into Masonic implements in order that they might be preserved as souvenirs of the oldest lodge room in the world.

“M. W. Grand Master, I take great pleasure in presenting you this maul for the use of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.”

The report on Correspondence is again by Bro. Joseph Robbins, who is one of the ablest of the corps. This extensive review covers 340 pages. We copy part of his introductory remarks :

“The question of jurisdiction over rejected material still continues to attract more attention than any other, fresh instances of deadlock between sovereign jurisdictions differing in their interpretation of the law of Masonry, serving to keep it continually at the front. The

discussions of the question during the past year have, we think, fully justified the opinion expressed in our last report that it was beginning to be more clearly seen that a necessary condition precedent to any agreement must be a recognition by both sides of the fact that Masonry, not the candidate, is the chief factor in the problem; in other words, it must be agreed that the Masonic acts of a lawfully constituted lodge working in conformity to the regulations of the Grand Lodge, which is conceded to be for those of its obedience the authorized interpreter of Masonic law, must be given full faith and credit. Under the irritation caused by the unwarrantable trespass, it took us a good while to see that the making of material belonging to us by lodges of a different obedience must be confessed to have given the material so made a lawful Masonic status, because they were lawful lodges lawfully at labor in conformity with the regulations imposed by competent authority. But we did come to recognition of it pretty generally, the Grand Lodges being very few that will assume to declare that the act of making by a lodge thus at labor is without Masonic virtue, null, void and of no effect.

"So, too, it may take a good while for us to see that on the other hand the status given a rejected candidate under the properly administered law of a Grand Lodge recognized by us as the competent law-giver within its territory cannot be denied without discrediting the lawful acts of its lawful lodges, no matter how much we may condemn the policy of giving that status or the law which gives it. The acknowledgment of complete Masonic competency on the part of each is involved in the mutual recognition of Grand Lodges, and until this is fully realized by both parties to this debate, so that each can approach the other as a recognized equal in all things, there can be little profitable discussion of the minor questions whether a wrong doer may repent and an unfit candidate outgrow his unworthiness, and whether as a rule rejections are prompted by unworthy and un-masonic motives.

"There are increasing and gratifying signs of returning reason in the consideration of the rights and wrongs of non-affiliates apparent not only in the discussions of the year, but in the legislation of some Grand Lodges. The rage for legislation against them has gone on until in several jurisdictions it could go no further, unless some means might be devised to insure punishment after death, having stripped them of the last vestige of their rights, not leaving them even the right to seek re-affiliation without buying it for so much cold cash.

"All this without charges or trial, not by the judgment of his fellows but by indiscriminating legislative fiat, in violation of the commonest principles of civil and Masonic jurisprudence, and in derogation of that free choice which as a Free-Mason he has a right to exercise, of contenting himself with enjoying the general rights of the fraternity for which he paid when entering it, or of participating—on such financial terms as the lodge shall prescribe—in the additional privileges incident to lodge membership. In view of the purely commercial root of all the legislation of recent years respecting non-affiliation, it would be the simplest prudence on the part of the candidate to insist that there shall be two parties to the contract to which *he* is required to assent on the threshold of initiation, and that with some authorized representative of the fraternity, there should be a joint repudiation of all mercenary motives.

"It would be by no means surprising, considering their common root, if the crusade against non-affiliates and the tendency to convert Masonry into a mutual benefit or assurance society, should wane as they have waxed, together. The proceedings we have had under review contain much to encourage the hope expressed last year, that the Wisconsin proposition relative to Masonic relief was the high-water mark of this tendency. Still there is abundant reason for watchful apprehension so long as Masonry is environed by numberless initiative societies, formed, for the most part on the basis of fixed benefits contingent on fixed contributions, and in which a cessation of payments works forfeiture of membership.

"That Masonry, like other organizations and like the individual, cannot escape the influence of its environment, the proceedings reviewed afford evidence in the comparatively languid interest excited by what thirty years ago would have been so startling a departure as to have set the whole fraternity in a blaze of indignant excitement—the authorized printing of cipher rituals by Grand Lodges. The rapid extension of the so-called high rites since the revival of Masonry which followed the decadence of the Morgan days, built upon Masonry as they are and recruited wholly from its membership, has familiarized so many Masons with the idea of printed rituals that the keen edge of sensibility which the craftsman brings from the process of his "making" is soon blunted by the indifference of his sophisticated brethren. Let any one who is old enough to remember the deep feeling caused by the unauthorized and surreptitious circulation of a printed cipher a generation ago, recall that picture, and then look upon that presented now when a Grand Master's first solicitude on being requested to join with other Grand Masters in a protest against the authorized issue of a cipher ritual, finds expression in the statement that interference might be construed into a denial of the sovereignty of the incriminated Grand Lodge!

"Signs are not wanting, however, that the dulled and sleeping conscience of the craft will assert itself and demonstrate that it has not permanently succumbed to the influences which not only in this, but in other directions threaten the integrity of genuine Masonry.

"The developments of the year respecting the hybrid aggregation of lodges and grand lodges in Mexico known as the Gran Dieta Simbolica, and the propagandists who are engineering the campaign for its recognition as a lawful Masonic governing body by the grand lodges of the United States., furnish abundant cumulative evidence that our instincts have not been at fault when we have warned the loyal craftsmen of our own and other jurisdictions—as we have repeatedly done since 1882—that the integrity of genuine Masonry is threatened. The evidence which the year has brought to the surface, that trusted men in high places in the fraternity have withheld facts in their possession relative to the irregular and revolutionary practices under the authority of the gran dieta; have publicly bolstered up the denials of the Mexican authorities that these practices existed; have, when driven to the acknowledgment of their existence, been swift to assert that they were unauthorized by the gran dieta, and have almost in the same breath assumed that the withdrawal by the gran dieta of the authority under which they had existed condoned all and proved the legitimacy of that body; who have, in short, resorted to every possible shift to palm off upon the craft as ingenuousness itself the 'atmosphere of duplicity' which, to the apprehension of Robert

Freke Gould, the Historian. 'encircles all the official spokesmen who testify to the actual procedure under the Gran Dieta Simbolica!'

"What is behind all this? What is the power, the influence, the purpose that constrains Masons who have been trusted by their fellows, honored with the highest places in the gift of the craft, and to whom their brethren still look for guidance, to an alliance which compels them to deny until exposure becomes inevitable, and thereafter to excuse, and, as in one conspicuous instance, to seek to justify by precedent such departures from genuine Masonry as the admission of women to the fraternity and the exclusion of the bible from the lodges. There can be but one answer to this question: It is the influence of the rite to which the lodges composing the gran dieta owe their existence, and their members the possession of the alleged Masonry which they practice.

"We do not allege, because we do not believe, that it is the officially agreed purpose of the governing bodies of that rite in this country to sacrifice whatever of Masonry may be necessary to secure for that rite the recognition of its offspring as equal heirs to the right to form Grand Lodges and administer the affairs of symbolic Masonry. But we do believe that certain propagandists of that rite aim at nothing less than this and possibly something more.

"And so we repeat with renewed earnestness and with a conviction of its timeliness deepened by the events of the year as chronicled in the following pages, the warning of last year to our brethren to beware of any attempt to commit them to the heresy that some other Masonry than the Masonry of the charges of a Freemason—Free and Accepted Masonry—may under any condition create lodges that are recognizable as a lawful basis for a Grand Lodge."

In his notice of Canada for 1895 he says that "the reports of the District Deputies reflect the painstaking and indefatigable labors of a corps of officers which can scarcely be equalled in any other jurisdiction."

On Masonic buildings, he says:

"We may have been misled by the fact that prosperous enterprises give rise to less comment, but the net impression left on our minds after surveying the field for many years, is that profitable building enterprises among the fraternity in the larger towns and cities in the United States have been the exception rather than the rule."

Bro. Robbins thinks that there is a gradual approach towards a general consensus of opinion that the Asylum plan is neither the most economical nor the most desirable plan of Masonic beneficence, at least for small jurisdictions.

The immense extent of this report forbids any attempt to make any sort of synopsis of it, but we give the following from his notice of New Hampshire:

"How long Masonry may have existed in England and Scotland before the formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717 may be still an open question; but so far from its being an ascertained fact of history that it existed ages before that time elsewhere, if there is a scrap of evidence that a lodge of Freemasons existed on the continent of Europe one hour before, or indeed until it had been planted there by the Grand Lodge of England, the leading Masonic students

of the world will be most grateful to Bro. Wait if he will produce it. Since men ceased to write histories of Masonry from their imaginations, and began to apply to the study of the fraternity the methods of modern historical investigation, there has been left no room for reasonable doubt that Freemasonry was evolved from the guild system, with which, of course, it has many features in common, and so far as we know there is not a scintilla of evidence that such an evolution took place anywhere outside of Great Britain.

"Nowhere but among a constitutionally governed people could a model commonwealth, stamped with a polity like that of Free and Accepted Masonry, which makes it up to date with the freest of representative governments have been evolved; and nowhere but in a country that had been swept by the Reformation, could have been evolved the final form of its theological or religious basis whose inclusive catholicity gives Masonry to-day its only valid claim to universality.

"That Masonry could have been evolved also on the continent of Europe and then have disappeared so completely as to leave no trace behind at the time the fraternity took on its completed form in Great Britain, is most improbable. But whether such an evolution took place elsewhere or not is not material, for if it did the product was not perpetuated."

Lodges, 719; members, 52,509; increase, 1,782.

Owen Scott (Bloomington), G. M.

J. H. C. Dill (Bloomington), G. S.

INDIANA.

75th Communication, Indianapolis, May 26, 1896.

Edward O'Rourke, G. M.

During the past year great activity has prevailed in the lodges and more than ordinary zeal has been manifested in the work.

The perpetual jurisdiction doctrine is to blame for another violation of that love and harmony which should at all times characterize Freemasons. The language of the Grand Master of Indiana in the following extract is none too strong for the situation. Pennsylvania should be ashamed of their position:

"Our relations with other Grand Lodges, with the single exception of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, are cordial and fraternal. Notwithstanding the full and clear statement of the law by my predecessor to the Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania in relation to the length of residence requisite to authorize a lodge in Indiana to receive a petition from one seeking to be made a Mason, and that the rejection of such a petition, even by a lodge within the Grand Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, did not forever exclude the one rejected from again searching for the light in Masonry in a lodge within the Grand Jurisdiction of Indiana, R. W. Matthias H. Henderson, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, ignoring the autonomy of every Grand Lodge in the United States, except that of

Pennsylvania, has seen fit to grossly insult, and without any excuse or palliation whatever, to affront the Grand Lodge of Indiana by sending to the Grand Master of Masons of this State the following circular:

“OFFICE OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER,
OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF PENNSYLVANIA,
AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING.

To the Worshipful Master of Lodge No. —:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER—WHEREAS, George Snyder, an applicant for initiation and membership in Pollock Lodge, No. 502, at Tarentum, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, was twice rejected therein; and,

“WHEREAS, Said George Snyder, having been so rejected, and therefore ineligible to membership in any lodge in this Jurisdiction until the objection to his approval has been lawfully removed, has since petitioned Marion Lodge No. 35, in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, and was subsequently made a Mason therein without the rejection being removed;

“Now, therefore, I, Matthias H. Henderson, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging, by virtue of the powers and authorities in me vested, do hereby prohibit your lodge from admitting said George Snyder as a visitor, and do also prohibit any member of your lodge from extending any Masonic recognition whatever to said George Snyder.

“You are also directed to inquire of all brethren from the Jurisdiction of Indiana desiring to visit your lodge, whether they have ever been residents of this Masonic Jurisdiction, and if they have, whether they have been rejected by any of our lodges.

“You will cause this letter to be read in open lodge at the first stated meeting after its receipt, and to be copied in full on the minutes.

“Given under my hand and seal at the Masonic Temple, in the city of Philadelphia this thirtieth day of May, A. D. 1895, A. L. 5895.

“MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON,

[SEAL.]

“Grand Master.

“Here is an attack against the citadel of his own safety by one who should be most interested in guarding it. I know that it is claimed by the thoughtless that when the burdens of life to which man is heir, become very heavy, he has a right, though trampling upon divine law, to commit suicide, to get rid of them. I deny such right. Life is a trust. We are bound to make the most out of it by obeying the law, instead of running away from our duty. And the right that we claim for our own liberty and growth, we would freely grant to others. It should be remembered that the words temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, are full of meaning, especially to every true Mason.

“The principles of Masonry require of those seeking to come within her influence, something more than mere lip service. It is as much the duty of every true Mason to aid those sincerely in search of Masonic light, as it is to discharge his obligations to his brethren. Every Mason of this Grand Jurisdiction, if he goes into the Grand

Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania is to have a detective on his track. And if, while there, he should make known his desire to visit a Masonic Lodge, the fact that he is a Mason in good standing here, that he can prove himself such by the testimony that is in the faithful breast of every bright Mason, would be of no avail to him, if at any time in his life, he had been rejected by a Masonic Lodge in that State. The ordinary purging process would not heal him, if he were so unfortunate as to have his life poisoned by the virus of rejection of a Pennsylvania Lodge. Every Mason, therefore, of this Grand Jurisdiction, if in Pennsylvania and making known his desire to visit a Masonic Lodge in that State is put under suspicion. And is it by carrying out the policy outlined by the Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania, that the ties that bind us together are to be strengthened? And this is all in the name of amity, fraternity and charity, and comes from the very heart of the 'City of Brotherly Love.' "

Six new lodges were organized.

The history of Masonry in Indiana, under the hands of Bro. Daniel McDonald, is well under way.

The Wisconsin relief proposition was not concurred in. The position of the Grand Lodge of Indiana in this subject is thus stated :

"The Grand Lodge of Indiana has at all times contended, and held, that a Mason in distress is entitled to aid and assistance from the fraternity wherever he may be at the time of his need, and that, as a matter of law, his lodge is not bound to make any restitution, though it may always do so at its own option."

We also copy the report on the Pennsylvania edict, which report was adopted unanimously :

"Your Committee on Correspondence to whom was referred the circular from the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, relative to the making of a Mason by Marion Lodge, No. 35 (Samaritan Lodge, No. 105, of Marion), of a candidate who had been previously rejected by Pollock Lodge, No. 502, of the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, together with so much of the Grand Master's address as related thereto, fraternally report :

"We reaffirm our language of last year, and again declare that the principle of Grand Lodge sovereignty is an established doctrine, recognized as such by every Grand Lodge of the world. The Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana is the supreme Masonic authority within the geographic limits of Indiana, as the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is the supreme Masonic authority within the territorial boundaries of that State. The Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of Indiana, and this Grand Lodge alone, has the authority to make and promulgate laws for the government of subordinate lodges in this jurisdiction. While this is true of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, it is equally true that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has the same authority to make and declare laws for the government of its subordinate lodges. But that any Grand Lodge can acquire extra jurisdictional authority is a principle that can not be sustained by any system of equity, or by any code of Masonic law. The doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates is held only by a minority of the Grand Lodges of the United

States, and by no Grand Lodge outside of the United States. It is un-Masonic, uncharitable, unconstitutional, wrong in theory and pernicious in action.

"Regarding the edict of non-Masonic intercourse issued by the Grand Master of Pennsylvania against Brother George Snyder, a legally made Mason of this jurisdiction, we will say that since its promulgation the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has held three regular quarterly communications, and one annual communication. The proceedings of all these have been published, and nowhere therein is this case mentioned, or referred to in any manner whatsoever. It is the act of the Grand Master, and his act alone. As such we leave it with him, without malice, but with charity for his misguided zeal without adequate knowledge. In conclusion we offer the following:

"*Resolved*, That Brother George Snyder having lived the required time within the jurisdiction of Marion Lodge No. 35 (Samaritan Lodge No. 105 of Marion), within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, became subject to our laws, and to our laws alone. Having been found worthy, and regularly made a Mason, he is a legitimate Mason, and his standing in the fraternity cannot be impaired, except by his own act and for established cause. Adopting the language of an able Mason jurist, his making being 'lawfully done where done, is lawful everywhere.'

"*Resolved*, That Matthias H. Henderson, Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in issuing his aforesaid edict has violated Masonic courtesy and usage, ignored Grand Lodge autonomy, and by attempting to interfere with the work of a legitimate lodge has been guilty of violating a landmark of Masonry.

"*Resolved*, That all matters herein considered be referred to the Grand Master for the time being for action as his judgment may dictate, and that the language and sentiments thereto expressed by Grand Master O'Rourke be in all things approved."

A proposal to eliminate the official degree of Past Master as a pre-requisite to the installation of the Master of a lodge was lost.

A most valuable and interesting collection of the portraits of 40 Past Grand Masters appears in these proceedings. There are eight more yet to be obtained, and the Grand Secretary was authorized to incur the necessary expense to get them.

Bro. William Commons has a good report on Correspondence, in which Canada for 1895 has a place. Bro. Commons has a certificate of honorary membership in our Royal Solomon Mother Lodge at Jerusalem.

Lodges, 478 ; members, 28,439 ; increase, 932.

Simeon P. Gillett (Evansville), G. M.

William H. Smythe (Indianapolis), G. S.

INDIAN TERRITORY.

23rd Communication, Muskogee, August 11, 1896

John Coyle, G. M.

The Grand Master visited 42 lodges during the year and

these visits were not made in vain. He reports five new lodges. Under the heading of politics he says :

"I understand there was an election of officers in a town in this territory. There seems to have been dissatisfaction in regard to this election (there always is), the animosities growing out of this election being carried into the lodge. My brethren, this is all wrong. Take my advice: plow your corn, hoe your cotton, raise potatoes and attend your lodge meetings, and my word for it, you will be better off and better satisfied at the end of the year. Let politics alone. It is something outside of this territory. Your cotten, corn, potatoes and lodges are here with you and need your attention."

The Bill for incorporating the Grand Lodge was passed by the House, but the Senate adjourned without action on it.

In the report of the Grand Lecturer we find the following :

"The general condition of lodges visited has been in the main good. There are some, however, that barely exist and some that ought not to exist. I regret to say that lodges are located in a few places where there is not material to sustain an active lodge. One strong lodge is far better than two weak ones. There can be no continued interest in lodges where quorums are with difficulty secured and meetings are often a failure. Masonry is injured by their existence. No brother should be appointed to the honorable position of Master unless fully qualified to instruct his officers in the secret work, thus complying with Section 2, Article 7, of our Constitution.

"Many of our lodge rooms are models of neatness and comfort; some lodges are satisfied with very meager furniture, making no visible effort toward improvement. Brethren, ought these things so to be? Another serious matter is that many brethren, who are by no means punctual in attendance at the regular meetings, are always present at the annual election of officers. They have not kept posted as to who is qualified, and often vote for a personal friend as Master regardless of his fitness for the position. In this way many lodges are burdened with inefficient officers and healthy growth is retarded. The office-seeking tendency is a dangerous one and the result is disastrous. In Masonry the office should always seek the man.

"I have visited thirty-five lodges, some singly, others in schools. The expense to the Grand Lodge has been \$605. Brother Martin's report up to date is sixteen lodges instructed, expenses \$256.20. Brother Parker's report has not yet reached me.

The Grand Custodians held 27 Schools of Instruction. The attendance was generally small, but the interest was always good and the improvements fair. The two Grand Custodians apparently work under the supervision of the Grand Lecturer.

The following report shows a practical exemplification of one of the tenets of our profession carried out in a most admirable manner :

"We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to report as follows :

"There have been reported thirty-six orphan children in this jurisdiction.

"Doaksville, No. 2, has one, Edward Rollins, and has furnished

him with tuition, clothing and medical attention to the amount of \$24.00.

"McAlester, No. 9, has one—Willie McMullen, and said lodge is educating him.

"Healdton, No. 23, has seven orphan children, one of whom, Callie Barrington, has received aid from the lodge; the others have received some assistance from individual members of the lodge.

"Lone Grove, No. 25, has two, one is being educated by the lodge; the other is old enough to earn his own living.

"Dougherty, No. 33, has four, and is educating three of them, while the other is too young to go to school.

"Velma, No. 54, has five, and contributes to them when occasion requires.

"Red Oak, No. 62, has four, and has already contributed \$15, the father having died but recently.

"Blue Grove, No. 63, has two, one of whom has been kept at school until her 18th year; the other is still in school.

"Oakland, No. 67, has five, all of whom are receiving partial support, and some are kept at school.

"Hewitt, No. 76, has five, all of whom are receiving full support from the lodge and individual members.

"The committee are pleased to report the above-named lodges as doing a grand work, some of them being financially unequal to the burden imposed. We would therefore recommend that the abler lodges come to the assistance of the weaker ones having these burdens, and would urge the recommendation of the former committee in the matter of the erection of an Orphans' Home, and thereby distribute such cares and burdens among all the lodges of this jurisdiction."

Past Masters were made members of the Grand Lodge, but without remuneration for their attendance.

In conducting the installation ceremony, Bro. Murrow stated that:

"For nearly forty years he had been a missionary among the Indians. That having labored for this race with all his powers, he naturally loved the Indian people. That ever since the Grand Lodge was organized he had longed to see some man with Indian blood predominating qualify himself for the position of Grand Master. That his hopes were now realized, and that it was a great pleasure to him to install into the office of Grand Master of Masons of Indian territory an Indian by blood and especially so good a man as Grand Master Armstrong."

Bro. Leo. E. Bennett is the author of the report on correspondence. It is his maiden effort, and it is a good one, as the following paragraphs from his introduction will show:

"PERPETUAL JURISDICTION over rejected applicants is having considerable attention from the Grand Lodges of Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oregon, Pennsylvania and others. Our law in substance claims for our lodges personal jurisdiction over rejected material only so long as it remains within our territorial jurisdiction. Some other Grand Lodges claim to hold jurisdiction so long as life lasts. The many arguments advanced pro and con confirm my opinion that our law on this subject is a wise one.

"NON-AFFILIATION may be safely classed as a subject of grave importance to the craft everywhere, and the ablest Masonic jurists, students and writers are bending their talents for a Masonic solution of this problem. I am not abashed to confess my inability to offer anything new in its discussion. Our laws on this subject are as nearly correct as any I have observed. We do not permit our lodges to charge an affiliation fee; our annual dues are in no case excessive—in fact are generally too small; we hold fast to every brother whom 'old age, accident or misfortune renders unable to pay the dues imposed by his lodge;' for non-payment of dues our only sentence is that of indefinite suspension from lodge fellowship, from which disability any one so stricken from the roll may reinstate himself 'to his former rights and privileges immediately upon payment to the secretary of the lodge of all dues which he owed at the date of suspension.' Yet the army of absentees increases annually. Masonry in this territory is absolutely voluntary in its associations; no man is invited to share its secrets, its privileges, its blessings or its duties. Nor is any brother compelled by law to continue in the enjoyment of lodge membership. But we do say to those who are too poor to pay the lodge dues, remain in our fold and share its privileges without cost. To that other class whose niggardliness prompts them to avoid the expense of lodge membership, we say you may visit our lodges three times (in hope these self-outcasts may see the error of their ways and return) and then if you remain out of the lodge you are thereby 'not entitled to be the recipients of any of those rights, privileges and benefits which belong to members of our lodges.' Personally I fear there is no remedy for those who thus shut themselves out of the fold, except it comes through a change of heart and an appreciation on their part of their duties to the craft. But we can more closely guard our doors in the reception of new material and to a greater degree cull from the applicants those whose careers, conduct and habits are such as promise nothing of benefit to Masonry. The man who thinks only of self or self-interest has no place in Masonry and ought never to be admitted within its tiled recesses. Some Grand Lodges expel 'from all rights and privileges of Masonry those who are derelict in paying dues. Such a penalty is out of all proportion to the offense, yet I find no less a Grand Lodge than Georgia wedded to this idol and at its last annual expelled 38 members of its constituent lodges. No greater penalty can be inflicted for any offense, and to class those who fail to pay lodge dues with the higher grades of Masonic offenses tends to depreciate the teachings of Masonry.

"PUBLISHING THE RITUAL is a hydra-headed monster which has arisen in some of our sister jurisdictions and has called forth the most caustic and stinging criticisms. Some Grand Lodges set the example to the brethren and then punish them for doing exactly what the Grand Lodge sanctions—a violation of the O. B. of every Mason who owes allegiance thereto. I am unable to understand the difference in grade of moral turpitude between an individual who perjures himself and a Grand Lodge which advises and encourages him in so doing, unless it be that the adviser is the most culpable. While this question may not become of local interest, some of you will remember how this Grand Lodge stands, for as early as 1878 your then Grand Master promptly 'spat upon' such 'helps.' I am sure I voice your maturer judgments in saying that if the viper shows its head here again it will be effectually stamped out.

"THE GRAND REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM has attracted no little attention from Masonic writers during the past year. Six or seven Grand Lodges have abolished the system as useless. The vast majority are agreed, however, that the position of the Grand Representative is an honorable one; is a Masonic courtesy tending to create a feeling of fraternal fellowship between the several jurisdictions, reminding us of the universality of Freemasonry and beautifully symbolizing the fraternal regard each Grand Lodge has for its fellows. That "it is not essential to Masonry's existence" constitutes the sole claim of some who are its opponents. Yet there are many other things in vogue which are in a less degree essential, but they and this system tend to good rather than evil. I never attended a session of this Grand Lodge at which these distinguished brethren are received without feeling that I am, through them, greeting the brethren of the Grand Jurisdiction which they have the honor to represent. No difference has ever arisen in our Grand Lodge because of this system. Only once have we been asked to recall a commission—the case with New York, with which you are too familiar to enter now into detail. This Grand Lodge has materially felt the benefit of having Grand Representatives, and I have no doubt you will continue to 'hold fast to that which is good.'

"RIGHT OF ADVANCEMENT is another matter now being ably discussed. Our own law is plain and satisfactory and guarantees to the one we make an E. A. Mason that he is more to us than before, that he has thereby attained certain rights and privileges not granted the profane, and that he is a brother in deed and in fact. The one ballot for the three degrees has lessened the number of 'stopped' E. A. and F. C. of our lodges, and at the same time the right of objection has protected our lodges in every right to which entitled.

"MASONIC RELIEF, as outlined in the Wisconsin proposition which met your disfavor last year, is being thoroughly discussed, and generally rejected. I see no reason to advise you to again take up the subject.

"ELECTIONEERING FOR OFFICE has heretofore had your emphatic disapproval, as it has that of many other jurisdictions. Few Grand Lodges have not felt its demoralizing effects. All condemn it, yet it will not down but again and again rises to disturb the harmony of the craft. You will find it reappearing in various forms, and should, in the future as in the past, promptly place the seal of your disapproval thereon.

"SECRECY OF THE BALLOT has had some attention and ought to have more. All Masons know they have no right to enquire or ascertain the reasons for an unfavorable ballot, or who cast the negative votes. Yet many more do not understand that no Mason has any right to even express to any person how he may have voted. Our law is plain and needs no construction, yet occasionally we come to understand through various channels that Bro. So-and-so black-balled Mr. So-and-so. The right and duty of every member to vote is statutory and none present can be excused. When Masons are true to their obligations no one can ever know how any brother may have voted."

In his review of Canada for 1895 he has the following complimentary remarks on our District Deputies:

"The report of the Board on the Condition of Masonry, as it is there termed, is a review of the reports of the eighteen District

Deputy Grand Masters. And such District Deputies! If one may judge from their reports they are very deserving and efficient officers, either one of whom has shown more interest during the year than all of our Indian Territory Deputies within the recollection of this Committee. It does one good to study the records made by these brethren. It would bring the blush of shame to any of our Deputies to read these valuable reports. Our system needs renovation.

"Our Canadian brethren are a well governed body of builders, and the fruits of their labors will shine with undiminished lustre through time into eternity."

Lodges 80 ; members, 2908 ; increase, 326.

Silas Armstrong (Wyandotte), G. M.

Joseph S. Murrow (Atoka), G. S.

IOWA.

53rd Communication, Boone, June 20, 1896.

George W. Ball, G. M.

He reports a happy and prosperous year and ten new lodges.

A delegate was appointed to represent them at the National Festival of the Grand Lodge of Hungary.

The code was amended by the insertion of the following section :

"The use in the lodge room of mnemonics, ciphers, keys, skeleton, or printed matter of any kind, purporting to embody the unwritten Masonic work or ritual, is hereby prohibited, and declared to be a Masonic offence; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to apply to the use of the usually accepted Monitors."

The Wisconsin relief proposition was declined.

Non-affiliates holding demits may now sign petitions for new lodges.

A motion to limit the term of office of the Grand Master to one year was lost.

The feature of this volume is the magnificent report on Correspondence of Bro. J. C. W. Coxe, covering one hundred and sixty-three pages and full of interesting and entertaining matter. He knows that human memory is fallible and he frankly says he can see no possibility of ensuring correct and uniform work without some standard of appeal. He has known irreconcilable differences of opinion as to what was taught to spring up between the brightest and best posted members of a lodge within a month after a visit from the Grand Custodian.

From his review of Canada for 1895 we extract as follows:

"The reports of the District Deputies cover one hundred and seventy-seven pages, and are almost microscopic in their careful scrutiny of the condition of the craft. They certainly show zeal, fidelity, and intelligence on the part of these officers, and also a generally healthy condition of the craft throughout the Dominion.

"The Board of Jurisprudence reported on a case where a candidate insisted on his right of affirmation in taking the obligation, and also refused to 'seal the obligation in the usual manner,' saying that the Worshipful Master 'honestly erred in proceeding with the initiation,' and recommended that 'no further degrees be conferred on this candidate unless he bring his opinions into harmony with the Masonic view of the question in difference,' which report was adopted. We opine that a majority of American Grand Lodges permit an affirmation where a candidate urges conscientious reasons therefor, as we do in the civil courts, and we can see no objection thereto.

"A sterling silver candelabra and an illuminated address were presented to Past Grand Master J. M. Gibson. Was the illumination from the candelabra? or from the felicitous rhetoric of Brother J. Ross Robertson?

"The report on correspondence is again from the facile pen of Most Worshipful Brother Henry Robertson. It covers one hundred and nine pages—and fills them as well. He writes flowingly and quotes generously and discriminatingly. He writes and quotes for the information of his brethren at home and not for buncombe."

He is not yet prepared to recognize the Grand Lodge of Mexico:

"As to the other matter of contention—the presence or absence of the Great Light; upon this there is a similar disingenuousness. It is averred that the bible is not excluded from lodges, but that, on the contrary, it is permitted; although the uniform testimony is that the Book of Constitutions is invariably found upon the altar, with rarely a bible in sight anywhere in the lodge. Such permission of the Great Light strikes us very much like a purpose to—

"Damn with faint praise, assent with civil leer,
And without sneering teach the rest to sneer;
Willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike."

"If it be said that the use of our (Protestant) bible cannot wisely be insisted upon in a country where the Catholic influence has so long dominated the people, we reply that such is not our contention, but that the use of a sacred book—a book of religion—is a proper Masonic requirement. The Douay version of the scriptures would meet all of the requirements in the case, as would the Koran in Mohamedan countries, or the Zend Avesta, or the books of Confucius in countries where these are so generally recognized. But the Book of Constitutions is *not a book of religion* any more than is the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States. It is averred that none can point out a law or landmark which requires the presence of the Great Light upon Masonic altars? We reply that usage makes law; universal consensus establishes landmarks; uniform observance of a custom for a century has well nigh the force and authority of Magna Charta. 'The unwritten law' is recognized in the Masonic Code of Iowa equally with the written law, and as imposing a limitation upon the latter. 'The letter killeth; the spirit giveth life.' The intent and purpose of an institution like Freemasonry is larger and broader than its written code or creed. We believe in the universality of Masonry; but we do not believe in it as a universality of negations, but rather as having a world-wide and age-long basis in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men. The latter is impossible without the former; hence was recognition

promptly and properly withdrawn from the Grand Orient of France when that body withdrew recognition from the Supreme Being. The presence of the Great Light does not make men religious, nor does it indicate that they are religious; but its absence from our altars would be a tacit declaration of Atheism which would belie all Masonic teaching and tradition.

"We have full sympathy with the American residents in the cities of our neighboring Republic who are members of the craft; but we question the wisdom of haste in seeking to afford to them relief from self-imposed burdens. For good and sufficient reasons they voluntarily went where they are; if they have chosen Masonic affiliations which debar them from the right of visitation in Iowa or Illinois, that is by no fault of these jurisdictions. We require adherents of Cerneauism to renounce allegiance thereto as a condition of restored fellowship; we certainly have the right to impose restrictions elsewhere. We can better afford to let the Gran Dieta wait awhile and prove the genuineness of its reforms and its thorough loyalty to Ancient Craft Masonry, than to hastily accord recognition, and challenge thereby the adverse judgment of nearly the entire Masonic world. It is better to make haste slowly than to have occasion to 'repent at leisure.'"

Lodges, 468; members, 26,890; increase, 787.

George W. Ball (Iowa City), G. M.

Theodore S. Parvin (Cedar Rapids), G. S.

KANSAS.

41st Communication, Salina, February 17, 1897.

Chiles C. Coleman, G. M.

With rare exceptions, this has been a year of peace. Their twenty thousand Masons have dwelt together in unity, in a manner that may well stand as a model to all societies.

The death of Bro. Owen A. Bassett, P. G. M., is announced. He was one of their earliest Grand Masters, and his stamp is indelibly placed upon the laws and history of their Grand Lodge, by reason of his great ability and energy.

Three new lodges were formed. An application from certain brethren at Johannesburg, in South Africa, for a dispensation to open a lodge in that far-away land, was declined by the Grand Master.

On their Masonic Home, he says:

"By the action of the Grand Lodge at its last session, the completion and establishing of a Masonic Home was assured. As early in the year as was consonant with good judgment and careful investigation, the Board of Directors of that institution purchased commodious and beautiful buildings and grounds at the city of Wichita, and at once set themselves to the task of preparing it for the great purpose of its founding. After mature reflection by the Council of Administration, and upon the invitation of the Board of Directors, it was thought proper that the home should be formally dedicated and consecrated by the Grand Lodge. It was accordingly so ordered

by the Council of Administration. September 10th, 1896, was set apart as the day for the dedication, and invitations were sent to all the lodges and other masonic bodies in the State. The ceremonies took place as planned, on September 10th, but owing to a heavy rainfall, and consequent difficulty of travel, the attendance was not as large as it would otherwise have been. However, the ceremonies were witnessed by a goodly number of persons—approximately five thousand."

The following resolutions were adopted :

"*Resolved*, That 10,000 copies of the *Kansas Freemason* be ordered, which shall contain the address of the Grand Orator at this Grand Communication.

"*Resolved*, That each lodge shall be furnished with a number of copies equal to one-half of its membership as shown by its return for 1896."

The Maine proposition as to jurisdiction over rejected candidates was not accepted.

Bro. M. M. Miller has the following in his notice of Canada for 1896 :

"We congratulate our Canada brethren upon the fact that no cloud now remains upon their title to absolute masonic sovereignty in their Grand Jurisdiction. In their tedious conflict for their masonic rights they have had the unwavering support of the Grand Lodges of the United States, and their experience will undoubtedly influence their action in strenuously supporting other legitimate Grand Lodges in their claim for sovereign control, masonically, of the territory belonging to them."

He favors the recognition of Mexico :

"With three thousand Americans in the City of Mexico, and more than that number in other parts of the Republic, Kansas having an undue preponderance in point of representation among them, our people have had ample opportunities to get acquainted with Mexican Masonry, and many of the most distinguished Masons of this State now or recently sojourners in Mexico, confirm in the most emphatic manner the judgment and wisdom of the Grand Lodge of Kansas in the action taken by her. Of course this is not proper evidence to submit to an Oregon court of review, but it is 'satisfying and conclusive' here, and we trust that you will accept the same for consideration, at least until you can present some other than a 'Me too' argument.

"Before we close this topic entirely, we wish to state that there is probably no jurisdiction in the United States which is so thoroughly represented in all parts of Mexico at the present time as that of Kansas. The president of the Mexican Central Railroad Company, though performing his official duties in the City of Mexico, retains his citizenship and residence in Topeka, and nearly all his subordinates retain a like citizenship in Kansas, though many do so in Texas. Some of the brightest Masons of this State can be found in every prominent city in Mexico from Guyamas to Vera Cruz.

"One of our members of the committee which reported in favor of the recognition of the Gran Dieta, had a relative who was and still is a teacher in one of the mission schools established in Mexico, who wrote that Masonry in Mexico was the conservator of civilization,

law and education, as well as mortality in that country. What that means, those well know who remember the cruelties practiced upon American teachers in some portions of that country twenty-five years ago by fanatical bigots under the guise of religious devotion.

"Other Past Masters than the one mentioned in our report, among them one who has been for many years a leading official of the Santa Fe Railroad Company at its terminal point in Mexico at Guyamas, have borne emphatic testimony to the sterling character of Mexican Masonry. Some of these brethren are as bright ritualists as the State has ever had, and they bear testimony to the fact that there is no substantial variation in the work in the Symbolic degrees.

"Many of these have freely visited these lodges; in many instances at the request of the Masters of Mexican lodges, have conferred the degrees of Masonry upon English-speaking candidates, and they say that in the lodges in the larger cities of Mexico, where the degrees are conferred in the English language, it is difficult to realize from the character of the work that you are not in a lodge in one of the jurisdictions of the United States.

"From many sources we have received emphatic endorsement of our report from those in a position to, and well qualified to judge, one of whom, a recent Grand Commander of Kansas Templars and a well known Kansas Mason for a quarter of a century, voluntarily writes confirming strongly on the knowledge of numbers of American Masons who have personally investigated Mexican Masonry, the statements in the Kansas report of the condition of Masonry in Mexico. Incidentally we are compelled to state that this brother never yet has taken the Scottish Rite degrees or in any manner disqualified himself from giving what one of the critics would consider unbiased testimony in the matter in question."

Lodges, 353; members, 19,595; increase, 410.

William M. Shaver, (Topeka), G. M.

Albert K. Wilson, (Topeka), G. S.

KENTUCKY.

97th Communication Louisville, Oct. 20, 1896.

Frank C. Gerard, G. M.

He reports ten new lodges.

On the burial of non-affiliates, he says:

"I was asked to bury a non-affiliate who dimitted many years ago, but refused because I cannot believe that a man may withdraw his support, moral and financial, from our fraternity and have grounds to hope that his memory shall be especially honored by the craft in its lodge capacity. What encouragements does this present for brethren to bear the burdens if they can neglect or refuse to participate therein, and when 'life's fitful fever is over' receive the honors of the craft as fully as the most laborious and faithful? I am impressed with the idea that there should be some limit to all this, and when a Mason has demitted for a year, or at most, two years, lodges should be forbidden to bury him Masonically. The non-affiliate's right or privilege to visit should also be limited as well."

Their Home is prospering. On the care of their children, he says:

" Bro. Weller, the president, directs attention to the importance of lodges complying with their contracts by receiving back the children who have reached the age of sixteen. It is according to contract, which every Mason should stand to and abide by. It is absolutely essential for the children's well being, which we ought to consider as our own. It is necessary, in order to make room for others who are too young to be self supporting. The continued usefulness of the Home will be seriously impaired if this reasonable request is not complied with. I think it would be a grand thing to do if every child who has been an inmate of the Home would, on December 27, annually give a short account of themselves, so that the Home may keep a trace and record of each one of our children."

The special committee on the Home presented an exhaustive report, from which we make one extract :

" Each passing year demonstrates the utility and efficiency of our beloved Home. Inaugurated in the absence of any guiding precedent, and with more or less of distrust on the part of its original founders and friends ; contemplated by many of our good brethren as an Utopian scheme, and by others as an unwarranted departure from the fundamental principle of voluntary Masonic charity, this organized Home has, nevertheless, well nigh completed the third decade of its eventful history, having meanwhile silenced effectually all opposing clamor and achieved a most phenomenal success."

A suitable ceremony for the decoration of the graves of deceased Masons is to be formulated.

The lodges have already subscribed \$25,000 towards the proposed Home of the Aged Masons.

The Committee on Correspondence asked to be excused from the consideration of certain papers emanating from the governing bodies of the Scottish Rite in several countries, as " the Grand Lodge of Kentucky is not of this Rite."

In his review of New Hampshire, Bro. W. W. Clarke has the following on perpetual jurisdiction :

" Nor do we believe that the principle of perpetual jurisdiction ' is of great importance, and its maintenance has a direct and vital bearing upon the harmony and stability of our institution.' On the other hand it is almost, if not altogether, the only disturbing element in Masonic circles. That ' the doctrine is grounded in the landmarks ' we deny, and challenge the production of the landmark ; that it is not grounded ' in justice and reason ' the majority of the Grand Lodges in the United States, if not in the world, deny by repudiating it as unjust and unreasonable, and therefore unmasonic."

On the same subject, we take the following from his notice of South Carolina :

" We note that the Grand Master has added another to the many aliases of this remarkable doctrine. We have known it to be called ' perpetual jurisdiction,' ' perpetual disqualification,' etc., but have never seen the name ' perpetual allegiance ' applied to it before. This new name strikes us as being incongruous. We can hardly understand how a man who has been kicked from the door of a lodge can owe it, or the Grand Lodge under which it acts, any allegiance

whatever, perpetual or temporary. If it be true that by his rejection he becomes branded as a Masonic outlaw, that very fact it would appear, would not only absolve him from allegiance, but would make allegiance impossible."

Here is a new phase of the liquor question :

"Grand Lodge adopted a stringent resolution against those engaged in the sale of liquors as a beverage. This may be all right, but why not *resolute* against those who *buy* also. There can not be a seller if there are no buyers, and we confess that one seems to us to be a guilty as the other."

Lodges, 469 ; members, 18,367 ; increase, 249.

Robert F. Peak (Lagrange), G. M.

H. B. Grant (Louisville), G. S.

LOUISIANA.

85th Communication, New Orleans, February 8, 1897.

Albert G. Brice, G. M.

The past year has not been one of prosperity. In a considerable portion of the State the drought shortened the crops and want and suffering followed.

The Grand Master is a man of great culture and erudition. His addresses at the laying of corner stones are eloquent productions and full of knowledge. We quote the following :

"Enough is here quoted to illustrate that the corner stone (*lerosh peno*) was recognized as an important stone in public and sacred buildings among the Israelites at a very early date. But it was not peculiar to them. History teaches us every civilized nation recognized the value of the corner stone in public and sacred buildings.

"It is reported, Mr. Petrie, in 1886, found deposited in a corner stone of a temple at Naukratis emblems placed there by Ptolemy Philadelphus, 275 B. C. also, in the corner stone of a temple built by Amasis II, about 550 B. C. These discoveries would lead us back about 2500 years.

"Among the Romans the corner stone of public buildings was laid with solemn and religious ceremonies. In Book IV, Section 53, Tacitus tells us 'the care in rebuilding the Capitol was committed to Lucius Vestinus on the eleventh day before the calends of July * * *'. The grounds assigned for the foundation were encompassed with ribbons and chaplets of flowers * * * the vestal virgins followed in procession, followed by boys and girls. * * * They sprinkled the place with water, drawn from three clear fountains and three rivers; Helvidius, Priscus, the prætor * * * sacrificed; they invoked Jupiter, Juno and Minerva, praying of them and all the tutelary deities of Rome that they would favor the undertaking, and with their divine assistance carry to perfection a work begun and consecrated by the piety of man.

"After this solemn prayer, Helvidius laid his hands upon the fillets that adorned the corner stone, and also the cords by which it was to be drawn to its place. At that moment the magistrates, priests, senators, Roman knights and a number of citizens, all acting with

one effort, and amid general demonstrations of joy, laid hold of the ropes and dragged the ponderous load to its destined spot. They then threw in ingots of gold and silver and other metals, which had never been melted in a furnace, but still retained untouched by human art their first formations in the bowels of the earth.'

"So history relates through all the periods to the present time among civilized people the ceremony of laying corner stones has been regarded as a solemn and important event. It was considered and is to day the most significant stone of the building—not because it unites the two outer walls of the edifice, but in it are deposited records of value, coins and other evidences suggesting something of the history of the period, of the people, of the objects of the building to be erected and of its uses."

On another occasion he said :

"The Hebrew word 'Livnos' means to 'build'; from this is derived the word 'bain,' a 'son.' Thus we find to build a house to, or for any one, is to help one to build up his house, to give him posterity, to build up his name, say, on the foundation of his first born son.

"So we read: 'I will build up thy throne; shall build the waste places; every wise woman buildeth her house; the Lord make the woman that is to come into thine house like Rachael and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel.'

"Although revealed has superseded the natural religion, and definitely enlarged our ideas of God and forms of worship, the observance of laying corner stones is not only permitted, but commended in order to express our dependence and the necessity man needs of divine aid.

In building the material house we come to the work of laying its foundation with feelings of hope and trust, that the spirit of our Father is with us; and in the performance of the ceremonies we invoke his blessing on the work of our hands, for we are taught in Sacred Writ: 'Except the Lord build the house, they (who work upon it) labor in vain.'

"So, we observe, even among the earliest peoples of the earth, the origin of these ceremonies are as old as religion and worship. With Masons, an observance of these solemn rites is essential. The tools we use are significant, and symbolize lessons of sublime import.

"Every word of our ritual has its significance, tells its history and its purpose. The roots of many of these words by which they are named are found far back embedded in a language pre-historic.

"But if pre-historic, how has the knowledge of this fact been obtained? By the study of the history and construction of languages, termed comparative philology. When one language is an off-shoot from another, it will disclose its origin by showing its roots are those of the parent language. It is by investigation of human speech, the relation of the languages of different peoples, we obtain a knowledge of the origin of words, their combinations, use, meaning and history.

"I may illustrate what this study will teach us by one word.

"If a man makes application to join Ascension Lodge, the first thing after his petition is received is to refer that petition to a suitable committee, whose duty it is to examine into and report on his worthiness—is he respectable? The committee look back over his life history; inquire into the record he has made for himself. After investigation, the committee report to Ascension Lodge the result.

"If I take this word 'respectable' and eliminate its prefix and its

affix, there is left the simple word 'spect.' Where did it come from and what does it signify? By comparative philology we are taught it came from a language, long since ceased to be a living language—the Sanscrit. Here is found the root 'spas' or 'spa,' 'spas' means to 'see.' To preserve its euphony, in transferring 'spas' into Greek, 'sp' was changed into 'sk.' So, in Greek we have 'skeptomania,' 'I look,' 'skeptic,' to 'examine' 'episcopas,' bishop or overseer in the church.

"In looking back over the life of individuals we find many deserving of respect. In the affix 're' is added to the root 'spas' or 'spect,' we have 'respect'—'looking back' So the committee's duty is to 'look back' to see if the applicant is worthy.

"The root of the word 'respectable' being found, pardon me if I go a step farther that you may see how from this root 'spas' hundreds of words have been formed. A few will illustrate the fertility of the human mind to create words. Starting with 'spect' we have 'respect,' 'Aspect,' 'inspect,' 'suspect,' 'expect,' 'spite,' 'respite,' 'speculate,' 'speculum,' 'spectre,' 'spectral,' 'specimen,' 'species,' 'spectator,' 'spectacle,' 'circumspect,' 'prospect,' 'prospectus,' 'suspicious,' 'conspicuous,' 'conspexion,' 'inspection,' 'conspicuity.' In French, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Greek, this root 'spas' has been equally fruitful in building up words with which to clothe ideas. The linguist might fill page after page with words that have grown out of this little sanscrit root 'spas.'

"It illustrates how languages are born and grow—the creation of the human brain. The roots of these ancient forms of speech were few—in Sanscrit, perhaps five hundred. It is this remarkable faculty, the power of creating words—speech—that distinguishes man from animal; this power to clothe ideas in words, illustrates his spiritual origin that links him to divinity and forces belief in his heirship to immortal life.

"Starting from child-life, savage-life, if you will, he soon realizes he is endowed with divine qualities—possessed of forces that lift him infinitely above the brute creation. If he early saw in nature foes without him, he realized early the latent forces within him. To subdue the earth and compel it to administer to his needs, the animals to subserve his will, these were the results of labors that led him to higher endeavor. The battle for freedom and supremacy over material things, and compel them to administer to his happiness, was a great step in advance. He became self-conscious, and soon began to create pictures of life and duty, out of which leaped into form rules or precepts that reached far into the intellectual and the spiritual. To preserve these as living realities, man imbedded them in symbols that reproduced to the minds of others the subjective thought enshrined. These symbols are not unreal things. They were natural objects or manifestations of nature recurring at regular intervals, such as 'day,' 'night,' 'dawn,' the 'seasons,' the 'moon' and 'stars,' all object lessons, symbols expressive of ideas of feelings, of duty and religion. St. John the Baptist suggests the spring-time, when nature clothes herself in all her beauty and freshness; St. John, the Evangelist, represents 'cold,' 'winter,' 'night,' 'death,' 'Hades.' The stories of the sun-god following the Dawn, of Orpheus in search of Eurydice, Isis in search of Osiris, all myths foreshadowing an immortal principle—the conflict between Light and Darkness. And be it remembered, all these legends preceded the days of Solomon and of Homer.

"In these simple stories of what to man seemed to be the course of nature, we learn how he endeavored to seek our God; but more, how he put into symbolic form, thoughts, feelings, emotions and desires of his heart. The first form describes his fear, the awe that inspired him as he observed the changing seasons, the 'dawn' of the morning and the 'shades' of evening. Of nature's laws he was ignorant, and, as a consequence, his first forms of worship were colored by his mental darkness. Yet withal, he realized he was a spiritual being, subject to law and to Superior power. To this power he bowed first in fear, then with reverence, and finally approached him as his Father.

"Did it ever occur to you the steps of this approach to God, as our loving Father? Let us look again at the language growth that gave expression to these changed conditions of mental thought. Remember, I am not bringing you any new wares. In the Sanscrit the word for God is 'Dyu,' 'Dyaus.' A myth is an imaginary story conveying a truth, moral or religious. One word may embody a myth. 'Eos' was the name of the Dawn, and it was stated she was killed by the Sun. Afterwards, being changed to a goddess, she became the wife of the 'Dying Day.' 'Dyu,' or 'Dyaus,' literally meant 'Bright Heaven.' Now, before 'Bright Heaven,' the 'Dawn,' etc., could be denominated God, it is self-evident the people must have advanced to a conception of a Supreme Being. The people who worship God have passed beyond the mythological period; their religion assumes the form consistent with intellectual life.

"The word 'Dyu,' was translated into the Greek by substituting a letter in Greek that had the sound of 'dy,' which was 'Z'; thus we have 'Zus' or 'Zeus', the name by which the Supreme Being is designated in the Greek language. As we have 'Dyaus' for 'Bright Heaven,' and 'Pitar' for father in the Sanscrit, so in Greek we have 'Zeus-pitar' or God-father or Heaven father. To translate the same word into Latin the 'dy' is changed to 'J,' and then we have 'Ju'; add the 'Pitar' to it, and we have 'Ju-pitar,' or, as aforesaid, 'Heaven-father.' In Sanscrit we have 'Dyaush-pitar'; in Greek 'Zeus-pitar,' and in Latin 'Ju-pitar,' all expressing the same prayerful sentiment, 'Heaven-father, or Father in Heaven.' How often we hear the preacher say 'Father in Heaven.'

"When man has reached this state he has arrived at the conscious condition of self-hood that lifts him above the things around him, and his heart goes out in worship to that higher Being, and faith gives to his religious nature a reality without which religion can have no place in men's minds. It is in this sense alone that man reached to the conception of a God, and gave to him in the later age the name of 'Father in Heaven.'

"By the study of comparative philology, we learn much of a people, their habits, modes of life and worship, who passed away so long that no history tells us anything of them, or when they existed. By the roots found in these cognate languages we learn some were far advanced in civilization, had homes, laws, rulers, domesticated animals, a religion and a form of worship.

"Informed thus much of pre-historic people by a study of comparative philology, I believe I am warranted in making the assertion that a careful study of our Masonic symbols, going back to the roots of words employed, will enable us to discover the founders of our great Order, and approximately its age, the character of the people who laid the corner stone of its first ritualistic and symbolic house, building with materials so well that Time has not been able to

destroy, or the united force of its enemies to tear down or lay waste, during the lapse of time since it came to us as the gift of man, while during the same period, 'the ruthless hand of ignorance,' and the devastations of war have laid waste and destroyed so many valuable monuments of antiquity on which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed.'

The Grand Lecturer visited 73 lodges and he reports in part as follows :

"I would respectfully state that my entire time has been employed in the discharge of my duty ; have done more travelling, harder work, conferred more degrees in the various lodges, chapters and councils than ever before.

"And, notwithstanding the solemn fact, that our State, especially the northern portion, was visited by a severe drouth, never before experienced, and many of our people, as well as members of the Fraternity, are destitute—without meat—even without bread—yet, our silent work of love and charity is going on. Their meetings are well attended ; applications for membership still coming in, and *peace, love and harmony* prevail throughout the State with a *faith and hope* that is so characteristic of our Fraternity.

"I am happy to report that the Masons throughout the length and breadth of our State are deeply impressed with, and highly favor the resolution offered by W. Bro. J. Pickney Smith, looking forward to the final establishment of a Mason's home in Louisiana for indigent brethren of our order and their loved ones, and will be proud when the charitable morn of the day shall dawn with this great and glorious enterprise—a monument to the Masons of our State—and all join with him in praise when his most sanguine and praiseworthy hopes shall be realized."

Two new lodges were authorized.

Bro. J. Q. A. Fellows is one of the veterans of the corps of correspondents. His reports are always interesting and instructive. On the ritual question, he says :

"The difficulty in these matters arises from the different views on the subject of the ritual. Many believe that there must be an *exact* uniformity, even to the dotting of an 'i' or the crossing of a 't,' and so insist ; and that the work they have is the simon-pure original work, and, as Bro. Schultz intimates, is a landmark. The Grand Lodge of Louisiana, long ago, as heretofore shown, made the essentials to consist in uniformity in the tie which binds us together as Masons, and in the means of recognition—as a consequence, I may say, we, in Louisiana, have had no use for printed or written rituals or ciphers.

"Every one, on reflection, must admit, that it is impossible to retain the exact verbiage of the work and lectures by oral transmission. It simply can't be done.

"The verbiage of the lectures, or of the ceremonies, we have always contended, were not essential. These are not of the landmarks, for they are forever and continually changing. The adherence to these verbal forms and expressions so tenaciously, as is the case with many of our enlightened and intelligent of the craft, has led to forgetting the essentials of the order, its obligations and the principles upon which it is founded. Instances may be recalled, of the Grand

Orient of France eliminating God, the Grand Architect of the Universe, from its ritual and requirements, and of Mexico, making Masons of females and creating female lodges—all these forget the body and think of little else than the frail covering of mere words."

Lodges, 130 ; members, 5,363 ; increase, 17.

Albert G. Brice (New Orleans), G. M.

Richard Lambert (New Orleans), G. S.

MAINE.

77th Communication, Portland, May 5, 1896.

Augustus B. Farnham, G. M.

Five conventions were held for instruction in Masonic work. They were attended by 17 District Deputies and representatives from 54 lodges. Notwithstanding the business depression, the lodges are in a fairly prosperous condition. The Grand Master ruled that it is not in accordance with Masonic teachings to allow the introduction of intoxicating liquors into Masonic halls.

Their gain in membership is equal to two-thirds of one per cent. The death rate is $16\frac{3}{4}$ to the thousand.

The following resolutions were adopted. It is a step in the right direction. If the term were made one year in place of five we could agree :

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge is deeply impressed with the necessity of uniform legislation by the several Grand Lodges in relation to the admission of rejected candidates.

"*Resolved*, That the effect of a rejection should be limited to five years, and that during that time the candidate should be allowed to petition only to the lodge which rejected him, or to another lodge with the consent of that lodge, or such consent of officers and members of that lodge as may be prescribed by the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction in which the rejection occurs.

"*Resolved*, That each of the representatives of this Grand Lodge be requested to present these resolutions to the Grand Lodge to which he is accredited and request for them fraternal consideration."

The following report was adopted :

"The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred the communication from the Grand Lodge of Greece, ask leave to report :

"That that Grand Lodge having revoked the charters of her lodges Pythagoras and Athena (Minerva), no brethren hailing from either of those lodges should be recognized as regular Masons, nor any Masonic intercourse be had with them.

"And furthermore, that no credence whatever should be given to any document, purporting to be Masonic and emanating from any self-styled Masonic Power in Greece, bearing the signature of TIMOLEON PHILMON as Grand Master, or of A. BRISAKIS as Grand Secretary."

We also quote the action on the Wisconsin proposition :

" *Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge cannot accede to the proposition of our Wisconsin brethren, because it holds :

" 1. That every Mason is under equal obligation to every worthy brother to relieve his distress according to his necessity and his own ability ;

" 2. That the sole claim of a distressed worthy brother for relief grows out of his *being a Mason*, and not out of his *having contributed to the funds of a particular lodge* ;

" 3. That the association of Masons in a lodge in no manner relieves them from their individual obligations, and that when they act as a lodge, their duty, and, therefore, that of the lodge, is precisely the same as that of the individual Mason.

" 4. That masonic relief is never purchased or sold, and, therefore, never creates a debt."

Bro. Archie Lee Talbot called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the action of the Chicago Congress, and thereupon the committee added the following to their report :

"The Chicago Congress adopted the following :

" *Appeals for Aid.* The conclusion of the Congress is, that worthy Masons are entitled to relief from brethren and lodges wheresoever they may be found in need of relief, and that the brethren or lodges granting such aid are not entitled to demand re-imbursement from the lodges in which they hold their membership, but that when a member of one lodge is relieved by another, and the financial situation of his lodge is such as to permit, common courtesy and duty alike demand that it should re-imburse a poorer lodge relieving its members. Written or printed appeals for aid which do not secure the endorsement of the Grand Master of the jurisdiction from which they emanate, should be discountenanced.

" We do not fully endorse this ' conclusion ' ; if it is once established *as law* that ' common courtesy and duty ' require a lodge to re-imburse under *any* circumstances, it opens the door to further and greater departures from the old law. We hold, therefore, that it is for the lodge *in every case* to determine what it will do ; and what it does, it must do, not under the duress of law, but of its own free will ; and whatever its conclusions, no one has any Masonic right to complain."

The report was accepted, the resolution adopted, and it was

" *Resolved*, That a sufficient number of the resolution, with a suitable preamble, be printed to supply every Mason in this jurisdiction."

The Committee on the History of Masonry in Maine made a determined effort, by means of an extensive correspondence, to reduce the number of lodges delinquent in their lodge histories, and they succeeded in getting seven more completed.

Canada, for 1895, receives a good notice at the hands of Bro. J. H. Drummond. In his review of Iowa, we find the following on the question of physical disqualification :

" Noting a remark on physical qualification, we desire to submit to him a question, after quoting from the ancient charges :

" ' No Master should take an apprentice ' * * ' unless he be a

perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body, that may render him incapable of learning the art of serving his Master's Lord, and of being made a brother and then a Fellow Craft in due time' * * 'that so, when otherwise qualified, he may arrive at the honor of being the Warden, and then the Master of the lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the lodges, according to his merit.'

"Do the words following 'perfect youth' modify the term 'perfect'? Do they not mean that he must have no such defect as will render him incapable, etc., and do they not imply that though he may have some defect, yet it does not render him incapable, etc., he is eligible? If so, does it not follow that if now he has no such defect, etc., as will prevent his doing all Masonic work from Entered Apprentice to Grand Master, he is eligible?"

"We have often suggested this to the 'perfectionist,' and though we have called, yet 'they answered not again'! We have been so tired of seeing these words 'perfect youth' used, that only masonic courtesy has prevented our expressing our belief that the users of them never read the charge in question. While we put these questions to Bro. Coxe (because we have just read something that made us think of them) we should be very glad to have the views of all our co-reviewers. The doctrine depends upon the meaning of these words, and it would seem as if a consensus of opinion might be obtained by a discussion."

Lodges, 192; members, 21,953; increase, 144.

Augustus B. Farnham (Bongor), G. M.

Stephen Berry (Portland), G. S.

MANITOBA.

21st Communication, Winnipeg, June 10, 1896.

Charles N. Bell, G. M.

New lodges were opened at Russell, Holland and Alexander, all in Manitoba. Their business is conducted in the third degree and the Grand Master ruled that seven Master Masons must be present to open a lodge. We quote the following from his address:

"I have done my best to meet with the members of this jurisdiction in their own lodge rooms, and have managed to visit a large number of the lodges. From Banff in the west to Winnipeg in the east, from Edmonton in the north to Fort Macleod in the south, points hundreds of miles apart, I have been handed the gavel and met with large numbers of broadminded, earnest and hospitable Masons.

"I was much pleased to learn that in many instances throughout our jurisdiction the buildings occupied by our lodges are owned by themselves, and that where they occupy but a part of such buildings, rents from the remainder afford a handsome revenue to the owning body. No greater tribute to the permanent character of our institution than this action of our members could well be paid. With but few exceptions I found the lodge rooms in use to be comfortable and well furnished. In every case where I have visited a lodge I gave an address or lecture on some Masonic subject. To illustrate how ex-

tensive our jurisdiction now is, and the difficulty your Grand Masters experience in visiting, I may say that on one trip when I was absent from home for two weeks I travelled about 2,300 miles by rail and stage, made nine official and two unofficial visits, constituted a lodge and delivered eight lectures or addresses.

"I am sure you all will be delighted with the handsome and commodious building in which we are now, for the first time meeting. It is, I believe, the only building in Canada erected and owned by Masons, which is exclusively devoted to Masonic purposes. It is a monument to the liberality and energy of the Winnipeg brethren. The rooms and large vault provided for Grand Lodge occupancy will, I am satisfied, be approved by you.

"Assisted by the Grand Lodge officers and in the presence of several thousand people, I, as Grand Master, laid the corner-stone of this temple on the 15th August last, and the brethren were in possession of their apartments on the 20th December. On the 27th December, at a large gathering of brethren, I had the pleasure, with all proper ceremonies, of dedicating the building to Freemasonry."

The report of the indefatigable Librarian, Bro. William G. Scott, indicates satisfactory progress :

"On January 1st, 1896, possession was taken of the pleasant rooms allotted to the library in the new Masonic Temple at Winnipeg. Untoward circumstances delayed the opening until June 2nd, and on the evening of that day the library and reading room was formally opened in the presence of a large number of Masons and others.

"The room is comfortably furnished, and will be open at all reasonable time to Masons and the members of their families. Certain hours will be fixed when books not properly belonging to the reference department may be taken out under certain rules adopted by the committee on library. Every effort will be made to facilitate the use of the library, especially to students of Masonic history, symbolism, etc."

Two lodges have availed themselves of the Act of Incorporation and have acquired Masonic Halls.

No less than eleven amendments to the Constitution were proposed and lost, and two others were withdrawn.

"All rights and laws are still transmitted,
Like an eternal sickness to the race."

The following resolution was adopted :

"*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge that it is unmasonic to give to the press for publication, without the consent of the Grand Master, any of the business transacted at meetings of subordinate lodges."

Lodges, 58 ; members, 2,413 ; increase, 80.

Corbet Locke (Morden), G. M.

William G. Scott (Winnipeg), G. S.

MARYLAND.

At the half-yearly meeting on May 12, 1896, the Grand Master reported four new lodges, and stated that the lodges throughout the jurisdiction were in a greatly improved condition.

The business of the Lodge of Relief makes a showing of the depressed state of the times, fifty cases were assisted.

The corner stone of the new Court House in Baltimore was laid with Masonic honors.

110th Communication, Baltimore, Nov. 17, 1896.

Thomas J. Shryock, G. M.

We take the following from his address :

"I can truly say of the craft in our State that it is pressing onward and forward. Harmony prevails, good fellowship abounds, and the order is prosperous beyond precedent. Notwithstanding the depression in all mercantile pursuits in the past year, Masonry in Maryland has increased in numbers and enthusiasm. Our lodges, with scarcely an exception, have had an abundance of work, and that work has been well done. Not a single lodge has fallen by the way-side, and we have added two or three to our roster.

"For several years past scarcely a lodge has missed being represented at the several Communications of the Grand Lodge. The officers of the lodges are not only proficient in the ritual, but are well versed in Masonic law, which is clearly demonstrated by the fact that I have not been called upon to make a single Masonic decision. The very wise provision made by the Grand Lodge, requiring the subordinate lodges to have read before them once a year such portions of the Constitution as relates peculiarly to them, has borne most excellent fruit.

"I attribute largely the success of the subordinate lodges outside the city of Baltimore to that very wise legislation of the Grand Lodge, enacted several years since, which requires the Grand Lecturer to officially visit once a year all the lodges in the State. Since this regulation went into effect, not a single lodge has surrendered its charter, whereas, prior to that time, it was not an uncommon thing to have them do so. I think it is but justice to the Grand Lecturer to say that he has proven himself a most efficient and conscientious officer of the Grand Lodge.

"I deem it proper to again call your attention, that you may bring it before the officers of your several lodges, to the decided advantage of the school of instruction, which has been, and is now, doing most excellent work, in keeping the ritual pure and in accordance with the legislation of the Grand Lodge.

"One of the wisest provisions made by the Grand Lodge was that requirement, which made it obligatory upon every Master elect to pass an examination as to his proficiency in the work before a committee appointed for that purpose. This committee has been one of the most conscientious and hard-worked of the Grand Lodge. The brethren of this committee have performed their duty conscientiously, and I feel perfectly safe in saying, that they have not given a

certificate to any brother, entitling him to installation as a Master of his lodge, who was not thoroughly versed in the work.

"Individually, the work of the committee ends here, and my attention has been several times drawn to the fact, that the Masters of the lodges do not attend the Lodge of Instruction after they have been installed into office, and the result of this neglect on their part has been a decided deterioration in their work. Of course, this is not so in all cases, but I regret to report that it has been the condition of several of our city lodges, and it is for this reason that I bring the matter to your attention again, with the view to urging the brethren to continue their attendance at the Lodge of Instruction, not only for the purpose of benefiting themselves by the work there elucidated, but as an encouragement to the Wardens, who are to be the future Masters of their lodges."

Out of 100 lodges 98 had paid their dues and were represented at Grand Lodge.

They have very late and important information from our Canadian Lodge at Jerusalem :

"Bro. James T. Dennis, Past Master of Manokin Lodge, No. 106, related the following experience of a trip to the Holy Land and his visit to a lodge at Jerusalem :

"Jerusalem, while full of interest in itself, has yet for Masons a significance beyond and above what would attract the mere pleasure seeker. There, close beside the huge foundation stones left as they came from the hands of the craftsmen of Solomon and the two Hiram, within a short walk of the so-called 'quarries of Solomon,' and not many miles from the scene of Jephthah's battle and victory over the men of Ephraim, stands to-day the modern representative of that order founded long ago by Israel's King. A few minutes walk beyond the "Jaffa gate" stands one of the two-story buildings of modern erection, which grace the outskirts of the aged city; and within its sheltering walls are held the meetings of 'Mother Solomon Lodge, No. 1,' the 'Temple of Modern Masonry' in the country. It was my pleasant fortune to visit this lodge at one of its regular communications, as a visiting member of the Grand Lodge of Maryland—a slight tribute of fraternity from the West to the East—from the newest to the oldest home of our great and noble fraternity.

"The lodge room, while comparatively small, is tastefully arranged, and carefully adorned with the emblems of the craft; and as the lodge is acting under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, there was a similarity in the work to our own, which would have made one feel at home, even without the most cordial and kindly reception I met with from the brethren and the Worshipful Master to the youngest E. A.

"The membership is truly Masonic—English, Germans, Russians, Syrians—all the nations gathered together out of the Syrian region, even including the swarthy Bedouin of Arabia, find their brethren within these walls; and nowhere else on the three eastern continents did I receive any warmer or more fraternal greeting than here. The work of the lodge is carried on in English, which all present (very probably) understand, while signs, grips and tokens of the craft are identical with our own.

"It gives me great pleasure to add that 'Mother Solomon Lodge, No. 1,' requested me to be the bearer of their fraternal greetings to

the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and their assurance of the 'universality of Masonry,' and the action of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in its proposed action regarding the lodge at Jerusalem is doubly pleasing to me, as having been the vehicle of communication between the two. May the kind brethren yonder be long spared to this 'house not made with hands,' and may their advancement to the Grand Lodge of the Supreme Grand Master win for them as sincere, cordial and true a welcome as was extended by them to myself.

"On motion, it was resolved the Grand Lodge of Maryland return its fraternal greeting to Mother Solomon Lodge with a nicely bound copy of its proceedings for 1896."

Bro. Edward T. Schultz says that an affirmation is recognized in all our Courts of Justice to be as binding as an oath, and that it should be so received in Masonry.

Lodges, 100 ; members, 7310 ; increase, 418.

Thomas J. Shryock (Baltimore), G. M.

Jacob H. Medairy (Baltimore), G. S.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Quarterly Communication, Boston, March 11, 1896.

Edwin B. Holmes, G. M.

By an amendment to their Act of Incorporation, the Grand Lodge may now hold real estate to the value of two million dollars and personal estate to the value of \$200,000.

The following report was adopted :

"We do not believe it possible to add to the impressiveness of the work by the use of the stereopticon. A plain and simple illustration of the various emblems alluded to in the ritual, by charts, is sufficient in our ceremonies. The language used and the ceremonies observed should be at all times such as to produce the most impressive effect upon the mind of the candidate. This can be best accomplished by an intelligent and earnest rendering of the ritual. In this way will the high and noble purposes of the institution best appeal to the heart. Illuminated illustrations distract the attention of the candidate from the more important lessons of the ritual.

"We heartily commend the recommendation that District Exemplifications be held in each district, at least once in two years. exemplifications are schools of instruction, and not only give the officers an opportunity to hear the correct ritual, but also to witness the established observances as recommended by the Grand Lodge. By this method all the lodges will have the same instruction, and will witness the same ceremonies. If officers of lodges are permitted to make innovations in the established regulations, and to introduce ceremonies of their own, the time will soon come when there will be as great a variance as there is now between different Grand Jurisdictions.

"Therefore we offer the following resolutions :

"FIRST.

"Resolved, That the use of the stereopticon, or other devices not in general use in the work and lectures of the degrees, is hereby pro-

hibited as contrary to the ancient usages and customs of the fraternity in this Grand Jurisdiction.

“ SECOND.

“ *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of each District Deputy Grand Master to convene the lodges of his district, at least once in two years, for the purpose of holding a District Exemplification of the work and lectures of the several degrees under the supervision of one of the Grand Lecturers, unless, for cause, excused by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

“ In regard to dress, the nearer it conforms to the dress of a gentleman, the more likely it will be to impress the candidate with the high character of our institution. A practice in some lodges of dressing the officers and assistants in garb other than their usual dress has a tendency to detract from, rather than add to, the dignity of our ceremonials.”

Quarterly Communication, June 10, 1896.

Bro. John H. Collamore donated another \$5,000 to the Charity Fund.

On the use of music in the degrees, the following report was adopted :

“ Your committee is in sympathy with the remarks of the Grand Master which gave occasion for its appointment. We agree that music adds to the impressiveness of the Masonic ceremonial, and we are quite aware that there has been too great license in its employment. It has been introduced at points where it detracts from, rather than adds to, the desired effect of the ritual, and it has been introduced so frequently and at so great length as to present itself as the leading feature of the ceremony, instead of a mere accessory.

“ That a Masonic degree should never be turned into a concert is a proposition too obvious to need stating. There are several facts equally self-evident: that the time available for a degree does not give an opportunity for much addition to the prescribed ritual; that vocal music, as often introduced, interpolates words into the ritual which are not prescribed and are often incongruous; that many brethren are so indifferent to music that its frequent or protracted infliction becomes a positive discomfort, a misfortune in a meeting intended for the supreme content of all; and finally that the introduction of music at all possible points, and in forms dependent upon the taste and musical experience of irresponsible performers, becomes at once the subject of the same inevitable criticism which has been the apple of discord in so many congregations, and, far from producing its desired effect, is destructive of the harmony which is our chief tenet.

“ What then can be done with music in the Lodge? Most of us feel its impressiveness when properly employed. All of us remember that it is one of the liberal arts and sciences which Masonry recognizes and the study of which it inculcates.

“ We can say in general that it must be so used as not to be abused, but to come to particulars is not quite so easy.

“ As to instrumental music we must still speak in generalities. First of all, the organ must never be used as a means of mere personal display of the technical skill of the organist. His business is to illustrate the proceedings of the Lodge, not to illustrate himself.

Then he must remember that the occasion he is illustrating is a solemn occasion, not a festive one. He must not accompany a procession as if he were accompanying a picnic. Then he should bear in mind that the recognition of music as a liberal art implies the practice of good music. He should present that which has been stamped with the approval of the most competent judges, not the flimsy product of popular tune-makers. Then he should be chary of improvising. Players who can improvise worthily are not one in a hundred. The main occasion when we may need to improvise is in what the Germans call 'melodram,' where, as in our churches or upon the stage, spoken words are accompanied by quiet instrumental strains. Here he must be careful not to over-crow the recitation. The organist who covers or blurs the words of the ritual with his instrument deserves speedy discipline for unmasonic conduct.

"Next, let us consider the introduction of vocal music. The opening and closing hymn are, of course, in order in all the degrees; and if a practised choir is available an anthem or a motet may be substituted for the hymn. We may say, in general, that these are the only places in the degrees where anything of the length of the ordinary anthem or motet should appear, except that the scripture lesson of each degree might be sung as an anthem, where a competent choir is at hand, instead of being read; and except also that a piece of some importance might be sung in the second degree in illustration of the mention of music as a liberal art. In other places shorter pieces should be used.

"As to the places, other than those mentioned, where music should or should not be used, we are in general agreement, while we are fully sensible of the difficulty of satisfying everybody. The member of our Committee who has had the largest experience in the matter and to whom, even in a report which he signs himself, the rest of us desire to express our obligations, well remarks that 'the difficulty experienced in the endeavor to mark out any arbitrary lines upon which music shall be employed as an adjunct to the conferring of the various Masonic degrees can only be realized by those who have made a practical attempt to perform that work. The matter of personal taste and opinion alone seems to bear a different relation to music than to any other art, inasmuch as every individual feels that his opinion upon the subject is entitled to just as much weight as that of any other individual, notwithstanding the fact that they may be widely diverse. Thus one may feel that it would be infinitely better to abolish music from the work *in toto*, while another would add everything that could be loaded on to the ritual in the way of music.

"In the first degree, nothing beside the Scripture lesson already mentioned is advisable, except a short sentence at the reception of the candidate, and short sentences before and after that part of the service which is to him of the most solemn import.

"The second degree may be treated as the first, with the addition, already suggested, of hymn or anthem in praise of music. It has been suggested that this degree, which is shorter and less striking than the others, might be made more interesting by the addition of musical numbers. We see no objection to this, provided that the numbers are not so long or so frequent as to give the whole degree the tone of a concert. The second degree was intended to be didactic and should remain so. We know no authority, however, for attempting to increase its didactic quality by inserting a lecture on the art of music, as is done in some lodges.

"The third degree has been the greatest temptation to the purveyors of music. We have seen programmes of choral service in this degree, comprising from twelve to eighteen numbers. This is preposterous. Such pieces as have been indicated for the first degree may be used, but the strictest silence should be observed when the candidate is engaged in personal devotion. Three numbers, referring to the evening, to the morning and to death, have been so commonly introduced that we are not disposed to discountenance them; but they should be so short and so serious in tone as not to interfere either with the march of events or with the prevailing current of thought.

"In conclusion, we disapprove of printed programmes of any private work of a lodge; and this not so much for the sake of secrecy, for the outside world probably knows already quite as much about Masonic work as it would learn from a programme, but because a programme, whether in church or lodge, always carries with it a suggestion of entertainment rather than of solemn service.

On the costuming of Fellow Crafts, the following report was adopted:

"The special committee to whom was referred the following section of the annual report of the Grand Master—'I recommend that Grand Lodge order the discontinuance in this jurisdiction of the costuming of the Fellow Crafts'—has thoroughly and conscientiously investigated this subject, and begs leave to submit the following report:

"We find that, as a general thing, the costuming destroys that beautiful and impressive simplicity, which has been not only the peculiar characteristic but also the strength of Masonic work. It places in the background the elevating lessons of the ritual, and gives the prominent place, with its lasting impressions, to what is usually undignified and often burlesque. We have found but one striking exception to this rule. This lodge, by a combination of artistic costumes, notable intelligence and fine dramatic ability, has shown itself able to present costumed work without any apparent loss of dignity or impressiveness. But legislation by this Grand Lodge based upon their ability is impracticable, and to imitate them would be impossible for most of us.

"In conclusion we would suggest that in an institution whose precepts are transmitted as are ours, it should always be a cardinal principle to endeavor to inculcate the moral precepts, rather than to exhibit our dramatic abilities,—to appeal to the higher nature, rather than to the love for the spectacular,—to cultivate the substantial, rather than the superficial, elements and possibilities of our work. And, finally, we should strive to cultivate that impressive and intelligent simplicity, which is always the most appropriate vesture for such truths as our ritual is designed to teach.

"We therefore recommend the adoption by this Grand Lodge of the recommendation made by the Grand Master on this subject: 'That the Grand Lodge order the discontinuance in this jurisdiction of the costuming of the Fellow Crafts.'"

A number of lodges have celebrated their centennial anniversaries

Quarterly Communication, September 9, 1896.

The following is the very interesting report of their delegate to the Grand Lodge of Hungary, Rev. Bro. Richard P. Bush :

“Most Worshipful Grand Master : In presenting a report as chairman for the committee appointed by you to attend the dedication of the Masonic Palace in Hungary, allow me first of all to thank you for the honor you conferred upon us. It will be one of the proudest and most lasting of our memories that in the name of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts we were privileged to stand upon the floor of that beautiful temple in that far off city, and bespeak to the brethren there our interest in their welfare, and the strength of the tie that binds all parts of our fraternity together even when oceans and continents divide us. That they to whom this report may come may understand the full significance of the event which called us to the Hungarian capital, let me acquaint you a little with the experiences through which our brethren there have passed.

“One hundred and fifty years ago Masonry was in a fairly flourishing condition in Hungary. There were innumerable lodges, and the craft were everywhere accorded the freedom of meeting for work and the furthering of their worthy purposes. This state of affairs continued until the latter part of the eighteenth century, when the reigning dynasty of Hapsburg-Lothringen succeeded to the throne of Hungary by right of Maria Theresa, the daughter of Charles III. Queen Maria Theresa—and after her Joseph II.—placed the Masonic fraternity under the ban, and one after another the lodges gave up their charters, so that by the year 1800 not one was known to exist.

“So its continued until somewhere about 1863 or 1864. At that time the brethren began to assemble at private houses or in rooms fitted for their purpose in some of the hotels. In 1867, Hungary received the famous charter which is known as the ‘Arrangement’ and which is inscribed in golden letters on the pages of her national history. From that day she has taken rank as among the most progressive and liberty loving of the nations of Europe. Outside of England I venture to affirm that there is not on the other side the Atlantic a people who have a more earnest love of liberty, more civil and political rights, greater freedom of speech and a truer equality before the law.

“We are accustomed here in America to read of the Austro-Hungarian empire, but the Hungarians are simply allied with the Austrians for mutual defence, and they have their money in common, but they will brook no interference on the part of the reigning monarch, and he is obliged continually to make concessions in their behalf. They have their own parliamentary government, their own State tribunals of justice, and their own national guards, supported out of their own budget, which cannot be taken for a foreign war without the consent of their own Legislature.

“Since the days of that famous ‘Arrangement’ Masonry has grown apace in Hungary. It is under the ban in Austria, but its interests are advanced with zeal and love by the Hungarians, and many of its leading and most influential men are not only allied with the Fraternity, but most earnest in its behalf.

“Somewhere about 1868 the Grand Lodge of France exercised jurisdiction over the Hungarian Masons, but in 1871, under the direction of General Turr, an intimate friend of Garibaldi, the

Grand Orient Hungarian was organized, and these two were united under the latter name in 1890.

"There are forty-two subordinate lodges in Hungary. Fifteen of these are in Budapest, twelve are in Vienna, and the remainder are scattered throughout the country. Together they number about 2,200 brethren. Of course no work can be done in Vienna, and the lodges there are nominally benevolent or social bodies, but when they initiate a candidate, they go across the Hungarian border to the city of Pozsomy. The brethren meet weekly; their work is all done while opened on the first degree; they have no higher degrees, and they rest upon a Theistic basis and have in substance a ritual corresponding to our own.

"At the time of our visit among them the Grand Master was Ivanka Emericus, who was the private counsellor of Emperor Joseph and a member of the House of Lords. The Deputy Grand Masters whom I met were Antony Berecz, who was at the head of the bureau of Public Instruction, and Marcell Neuschloss, a prominent merchant of Budapest. The Past Masters were Stephen Rakovsky, who rules the High Court of Accounting, and George Goanmovitz, the Secretary of State. The Grand Secretary was Dr. Ivan Bosanyi, the interpreter of the courts and one of the leading lights of the Law.

"Masonry, therefore, is a mighty power to-day in Hungary. It embraces within its sacred circle some of the first men and minds of the nation, and as this year is the millennial of Hungary's existence as an independent state, and the occasion was to be celebrated by an exposition and exercises and pageants in keeping with so great an event, the Masonic brethren determined to contribute their part to the glory of the occasion by the dedication of a Masonic palace in Buda-Pest, their capital and a city of 500,000 inhabitants.

"In conformity with your wishes we journeyed thither in June last and I myself reached Budapest on the 20th of that month. The next morning, according to agreement, I met Rt. Wor. Bro. James T. Sherman and Wor. Bro. J. Lodge Eddy, my associates in representing the Grand Lodge, and accompanied by Bro. John Vannevar, the representative of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, we repaired to the Palace.

"It was a beautiful and substantial structure of brown stone, and its erection marks an era in the new development of Masonry in Hungary.

The services of dedication were most impressive, but being in a tongue we did not understand, and received by me in running translation by Past Master Goanmovitz, cannot be done justice in this report, but we are later on to receive a full English rendering which will be duly transmitted.

The Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, Germany, France, Saxony, Servis and Greece, besides our own, were represented by delegations and, after the formal dedication, these were called in turn.

"The summons for America came near the close, and we from across the sea arose and I did my best to respond as became your representative. I spoke of the oneness that joined the hands of our fraternity in loving clasp around the globe. I emphasized the truth that when one member suffers all the members suffer with it, and when one member rejoices all the others participate. I reviewed the history of which Hungary is so proud and named the heroes whom she venerates. I bespoke the interest that all Americans evince in

all who are moving forward to an appreciation and enjoyment of liberty, and the special interest that American Masons have in their brethren who are thus keeping pace with the mighty march of modern times.

"I paid tribute to Kossuth and cited the privilege which had once fallen to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to entertain him as an honored guest, and I assured the brethren assembled that however many the leagues that might separate us geographically—by our vows we stood foot to foot and knee to knee—and in your name I bade them the heartiest God speed on the path of prosperity.

"My remarks were enthusiastically received by the brethren, and when I had finished speaking the Grand Master left his seat and shook my hand heartily and returned my good wishes with earnestness. From that time on until the moment we left the city the officers of the Grand Lodge and the brethren in Budapest were untiring in their attention, and in private conversation expressed their gratitude that we had journeyed so far in response to their invitation. We came away with the conviction that the Hungarians are princes in hospitality, and with the further and deeper conviction that they are destined to play a mighty part in the contest which is some time to come and which is to decide whether the Slavonic or the Teutonic influence is to shape the affairs of Europe.

"There on that border line between the Orient and the Occident Hungary stands as a barrier against the advance of the Eastern hordes, a manly and progressive nation, fast increasing her power; and among the foremost of the institutions that are helping to make her what she is, is that which she and we alike love and serve—the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons."

M. W. Bro. E. Holmes (Boston), G. M.

R. W. Bro. Sereno D. Nickerson (Boston), G. S.

MICHIGAN.

53rd Communication, Saginaw, January 26, 1897.

John J. Carton, G. M.

He reports four new lodges. He attended 12 schools of instruction, and was pleased to note the progress made in the work.

The Grand Lecturer held 53 lodges of instruction, at which 375 lodges were represented, with a total attendance of 10,168.

The Masonic Home was transferred from the Association to the Grand Lodge by the adoption of the following report:

"The Masonic Home Association offers to the Masons this property, worth nearly \$100,000, unconditionally, and without a shadow of restriction.

"Grand Lodge is to assume no pecuniary obligation, only to join in the management of the Home and to become an almoner of the charity of the fraternity.

"In the opinion of that committee, Grand Lodge can do no less than to accept this magnificent gift and execute the trust in the same generous and Masonic spirit that animates the donor.

"Your committee therefore recommend that Grand Lodge in connection with the other Masonic Grand bodies, in behalf of all the Masous of the state, accept said property as recommended by the M. W. Grand Master, it being understood that Grand Lodge by this action assumes no pecuniary obligation in behalf of the Home, but confidently relies upon the voluntary contributions of the craft for its support and management.

"It is further recommended that the M. W. Grand Master, appoint one trustee to hold the title of said property in trust in connection with like representatives of the other Grand bodies, and three members of the Board of Control to hold office for one, two and three years respectively."

A number of amendments to the regulations were adopted. The bodies of the Eastern Star may meet in the lodge rooms.

The following report was adopted :

"Your Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to the Grand Orient of Spain and the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, would beg leave to report that it satisfactorily appears that the Grand Orient of Spain is issuing or proposing to issue charters for the organization of so called Masonic lodges in this and other Grand Jurisdictions, and that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand is having fraternal intercourse with the Grand Orient of Spain, but it does not satisfactorily appear that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand has knowledge of the aforesaid acts or contemplated acts of the Grand Orient of Spain, or that having such knowledge that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand continues to maintain or proposes to continue to maintain fraternal intercourse with the Grand Orient of Spain. On the contrary it does appear that the communication from the Grand Lodge of New Zealand in reference to this matter is couched in the most friendly terms, and they say to us that if it appears that the Grand Orient of Spain is doing acts in our jurisdiction against which we protest, they will sever their fraternal relations with this Grand Orient of Spain, as they prefer to maintain their fraternal relations with this Grand Jurisdiction. Your committee cannot therefore recommend that the fraternal relations which have existed between this Grand Jurisdiction and the Grand Lodge of New Zealand be disturbed. Your committee would, however, recommend that the matter be referred to the incoming Grand Master with instructions to fully advise the Grand Lodge of New Zealand with respect to the facts in this case. Your committee further recommend that the incoming Grand Master be empowered, whenever it shall appear that any other Grand Jurisdiction is maintaining fraternal relations with the Grand Orient of Spain, after full knowledge of its acts or contemplated acts in this jurisdiction against which this Grand Jurisdiction protests, to discontinue all recognition of such Grand Jurisdiction as a Masonic body."

Lodges, 384; members, 38,668; increase, 962.

Lou B. Winsor (Reed City), G. M.

Jefferson S. Conover (Coldwater), G. S.

MINNESOTA.

44th Communication, St. Paul, January 15, 1897.

James F. Lawless, G. M.

His address opens as follows :

" I heartily welcome you to this the forty-fourth annual communication of the Grand Lodge. The year past has not been a prosperous one for the people of the State generally. There has been, from causes over which we had no control, a largely diminished yield of wheat and other cereals in sections of the State heretofore yielding abundantly. When in addition to this we had to contend with the turmoil and paralysis of business seemingly incident to the political upheaval every four years, and the lively campaign last summer and fall, much could not be expected. It should be borne in mind that we, as a people, were about recovering from a severe attack of business stagnation when thus fiercely assailed by the contending political saviours of the State and nation. When our people learn to pay less attention to tricky politicians and more to business, they will be better off. There is wide difference between a patriot and a politician, and the sooner we realize this the better.

" In common with other institutions we have felt the depression, but not, I am glad to say, to a material extent, the returns showing a flattering increase in membership."

During the numerous visits made to subordinate lodges, the Grand Master was impressed with the belief that there was an honest desire on the part of the great majority of the Craft for the work and lectures, and once obtained, an honest desire to hew to the line. "The day of the strutting Masonic popinjay has gone forever."

Representatives from 72 lodges were present at the schools of instruction held by the Board of Custodians, outside of the large cities. Four new lodges were formed. The Grand Master permitted ten lodges to sublet their halls to other creditable societies, under necessary restrictions. He was convinced in each case that the reason was imperative, as the revenue was of vital moment to the lodge.

The following resolutions were almost unanimously adopted :

" WHEREAS, The aim of the Masonic fraternity is to make its votaries wiser, better and consequently happier ;

" AND WHEREAS, The sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage tends only to degradation and misery ;

" *Resolved*, That all persons engaged as saloonkeepers or bartenders in the sale of intoxicants as a beverage are hereby declared ineligible to receive the degrees of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction ;

" *Resolved*, That from the time of the adoption of this resolution it shall be unlawful for any member of a lodge in this jurisdiction to engage in the sale of intoxicants as a beverage, and that any such member engaging in such business shall be liable to charges and discipline for unmasonic conduct."

Bro. Irving Todd reports on Correspondence and reviews Canada for 1896.

Their Masonic Veteran Association has now 238 members. An incident of early history in 1849 is thus recounted :

"The American House, standing then at the northeast corner of West Third and Exchange streets, has just been completed in the unheard of time of ten weeks, and it was by far the most pretentious building in the territory. There, on that Monday evening, gathered a few Masons, probably not exceeding a dozen, who, for purposes of securing greater seclusion than the rooms of a public house afforded, passed down Third street to a log schoolhouse, located in the block now bounded by Third, Fourth, St. Peter and Market streets. I have it on the authority of Father Pierson, who derived his information from one of the participants, no sooner were the doors closed than one of the number suggested that they all get down on their knees, place their hands on the bible and swear that they were Masons. But when it was stated that there were older and more accurate methods of proving a craftsman's qualifications, and these were put into practice, the would-be inconnoclast of Masonic traditions was immediately discovered to be an impostor, and with the exuberance of feeling, so characteristic of the amenities of those early days, he was promptly and ignominiously kicked into the street."

Lodges, 206 ; members, 15,428 ; increase, 293.

James F. Lawless (St. Paul), G. M.

Thos. Montgomery (St. Paul), G. S.

MISSISSIPPI.

79th Communication, Biloxi, February 11, 1897.

James F. McCool, G. M.

The digest of Masonry in Mississippi by Bro. Frederic Speed, P. G. M., is about completed. It will be the crowning excellence of that great Masonic lawyer who has contributed so abundantly to Masonic jurisprudence.

Four new lodges were formed.

Grand Representatives in future must attend the meetings of Grand Lodge. Failure to do so for two years will cancel their commissions.

The Wisconsin relief proposition was declined, as was also the Maine modification of the Mississippi jurisdictional rules.

Bro. Andrew H. Barkley reports on Correspondence and reviews the proceedings of Canada for 1896. He is slightly in error in assuming that the addresses of welcome were not responded to. The record mentions one response, and the other was duly and properly made in accord with "the eternal fitness of things."

In his review of the Proceedings of Minnesota, Bro. Bark-

ley has the following remarks on their proposed Masonic Home :

"The Grand Lodge and brethren of *our own* Grand Jurisdiction will have to move up in this matter or our Minnesota brethren will *outdistance* us in this good work of providing a home for the needy ones.

"We used our best endeavors to have the annual assessment made fifty cents per member, but finding opposition thereto from a quarter from which we least expected it, we refrain from pressing the matter any further. If ever we build the home we will be compelled to give more than twenty cents per member annually to this fund. An advance to \$1 per member annually for a few years, would enable us to do much in the way of furthering the cause. Our efforts thus far to get an advance have been unavailing, but we feel assured that if we had the liberty to place this subject before the lodges in its true light that the brethren would take hold of the matter with a hearty good will.

"We entered upon this work with a determination to make it a success and we still stand ready to press forward in the good cause, but to make any effort effective we must have a united support from all who would further the interests of this institution. It was our purpose from the beginning to make this institution one which would be the pride of Mississippi. This can be done, and the fault will be ours if it is not done.

"Let us lose sight of all *transfers* of other *institutions* to us, and whilst we aid them as far as we can, bend all our efforts to the building of our *own Home*. We are pledged to this as Masons, in a most solemn manner, and this pledge we must redeem, or fall below the standard which we created when we set out in this work. Brethren, as Masons, we appeal to you ; come to the rescue and let us do the work which was so nobly begun."

Lodges, 273 ; members, 9,110 ; increase, 179.

John S. Cobb (Verona), G. M.

J. L. Power (Jackson), G. S.

MISSOURI.

76th Communication, St. Louis, Oct. 20, 1896.

A. M. Hough, G. M.

Besides the numerous Lodges of Instruction held by the District Lecturers, the Grand Lecturer held 17 State Lodges of Instruction and all but two were splendid meetings :

"Meetings such as these are of incalculable good in many ways. The first and most important is, of course, that a larger number of brethren are instructed at a less expenditure of time and money than by any other means. But they also bring about a spirit of sociability and good fellowship between lodges and members that had not previously existed. They tend to break down the barriers of sectionalism, and extend the Masonic horizon of those attending, thereby making Masons more cosmopolitan, more liberal, more just and generous in their estimation of each other, and of each other's work. A Mason attending them soon learns to know that the work which

has been practiced in his lodge is not necessarily that adopted by King Solomon, and thus, prejudices against the work of the Grand Lodge—that work which has been so long established and so long maintained—insensibly melt away. The presence of the Grand Officers, and especially of the Grand Master, intensifies the interest of these meetings, especially when the Grand Master—as has been the case with the present Grand Master and many preceding ones—assists in the work by assuming any position, from Worshipful Master to Junior Deacon, thus inculcating the lesson that it is not beneath the dignity of any Mason, however high and exalted his position, to possess a thorough knowledge of the first principles of Masonry.”

Nearly every portion of the State was visited by the Grand Master and the fraternity has felt fully the touch of official presence.

The following resolution was adopted :

“*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge, that the representatives of the subordinate lodges, located outside of St. Louis, in attendance upon this communication, should, not only as far as practicable visit the Masonic Home during their attendance at this communication, but they, or some of them from each lodge, should, as soon as opportunity is offered, make to their respective lodges a report, oral or written, of their said visit to said Home, calling attention to its management, its leading features as observed by them, its objects, success and growth, and the great work being accomplished by it; and, that every representative complying with this suggestion should immediately thereafter notify the Grand Secretary of that fact.”

The Wisconsin relief proposal was declined.

Their Home has 104 inmates, 23 were admitted during the year, and 68 of their children are enrolled in the public schools. The report of the Superintendent concludes as follows :

“Of the eighty-three (83) children in the Home, fifty-five (55) are between the ages of three and thirteen, leaving twenty-eight (28) over thirteen; seven of these have employment down town, requiring them to leave the Home six to seven o'clock a. m., and they return from seven to eight p. m.

“The 6 o'clock bell in the morning notifies all to rise and dress; 6:30 bell is for morning work, and all are busy for a half hour, cleaning rooms, halls, porches, walks, making beds, helping to prepare lunches, and making ready the dining room for breakfast; 7 o'clock bell assembles all in Chapel for prayers; 7:30, breakfast; eight, clearing dining room and preparing for school; 8:15 school bell rings and 68 are off for school, returning from school at 4 p. m.; the children change their school clothing and don their working clothes, and all are engaged at work until 5, girls in sewing and mending clothes, preparing dining room for dinner, helping prepare vegetables, etc., and the boys get kindling, cut wood, keep the lawns, steps and walks in order, clean the basements, outbuildings, etc.”

We also copy the conclusion of the report of the committee on charity :

"Your Committee is of the opinion that since the establishment of the Home appropriations by the Grand Lodge for the relief of individual Masons, with the exception of Past Grand officers, should cease.

"It is first the duty of the lodge to which the applicant or her husband belongs, or did belong, to extend needed relief, 'if in its power so to do.' If not in its power, the Grand Lodge should render assistance to the lodge upon a proper showing and not to the individual.

"Your Committee is further of the opinion that the extending of aid by the Grand Lodge to individual members, if continued and encouraged, is likely to grow into large, if not dangerous proportions."

On motion of Bro. Martin Collins, the Grand Lodge withdrew its connection from the General Board of Relief of the United States and Canada. We hardly understand this action, as Bro. Collins was the first President of the Board and one of its strongest and most successful advocates.

The minimum fee for the degrees was reduced from \$30 to \$20.

Lodges, 563; members, 30,160; increase, 277.

D. A. Jamison (St. Louis), G. M.

John D. Vincil (St. Louis), G. S.

MONTANA.

32nd Communication, Butte, September 16, 1896.

James H. Mills, G. M.

On the result of the change in their system of balloting for candidates, the Grand Master says:

"The one-ballot system for all the degrees, which was adopted at the last Grand Lodge to supersede the ballot-for-each-degree system previously in force, has taken its place as day succeeds the dawn. There has been no jar or friction brought to my notice, and but one inquiry as to methods has reached me. If it has not given entire satisfaction, I have not been advised of the fact. This is the more gratifying, as in several preceding Grand Lodge Communications, discussions in which serious apprehensions of its effect disclosed, consumed many hours of time."

Three new lodges were opened.

The Gran Dieta of Mexico was recognized.

A Past Master, who is also an actual Master, can cast only one vote in the Grand Lodge.

In accordance with the general request of last year there was no banquet and it aided much to the progress of business and was a subject of congratulation among the members.

Bro. Cornelius Hedges says that the address of our Grand Master White in 1895, though not as long as some of the Deputies, is all the better therefor. He commends Bro. White's prudence in leaving many things to the Masters of

lodges and the District Deputies. He says that our charitable work forms a good record and that the disposition of the appealed cases shows that justice is well administered. He thinks that our rejection of the affirmation of a candidate is needlessly technical. In his review of Oregon we find the following excellent suggestions :

"Masonry has a history and a literature, and among its members are many old men with a fund of personal reminiscences, and able men capable of going beyond what is contained in the manuals to illustrate the symbolisms of Masonry. Every wise Master will provide something to interest all the members, and induce their attendance. The bill of fare should be so framed as to satisfy all tastes, and should include something more than the staple dishes of the usual business routine and the degree ritual. If the lodge cannot have table banquets every time it meets, there are other banquets that may be spread, full as enjoyable, and more satisfying. In a lodge there should be work provided for all, and not merely for those who take part in conferring the work. The custom of gorging a candidate with all there is of Masonry in one, two or three meals, resembles too much the custom at some Indian agencies, where a week's rations are distributed at a time. Too often the Indians hurry away with their allotment, and devour the whole at one sitting, and go hungry afterwards. We are satisfied that candidates would grow in Masonry better to have less given them at one time, and allow a chance for a healthy digestion. Better give the young Mason something new every time he comes to lodge, and he will keep coming, and after a time he will be able to furnish something for the entertainment of others. It is a great honor to be Master of a lodge, but there is a great responsibility attached, as well, and a splendid opportunity to work and provide nourishing instruction and satisfying entertainment to all the members of his lodge family."

Lodges, 43 ; members, 2626 , increase, 135.

Charles H. Gould (Miles City), G. M.

Cornelius Hedges (Helena), G. S.

NEBRASKA.

39th Communication, Omaha, June 10, 1896.

Henry H. Wilson, G. M.

He reports eight new lodges. He ruled that the refusal of a member of a lodge, without sufficient cause, after due notice, to watch with a sick brother, or furnish a substitute, is a Masonic offence, in which he is quite correct.

The Grand Custodian held 44 lodges of instruction, and great interest was manifested to get the work as nearly exact as possible.

The following paragraphs from the report of the Grand Secretary will give an idea of the manner of securing prompt returns, and the information required from the lodges. The rebates range from 72 cents to \$73.50.

"Returns have been received from all the lodges, and all the lodges except three (Nos. 110, 128 and 170) have forwarded funds.

"Returns from 170 lodges were received on or before May 7; 5 on May 8; 12 on May 9; 6 on May 11; 5 on May 12; 3 on May 13; 6 on May 14; 1 on May 16; 2 on May 19; 1 on May 20; 1 on May 21; 1 on May 22; 3 on May 23; 3 on May 29. and 1 on June 6.

"163 lodges are entitled to the maximum rebate in accordance with our law (Sec. 104, Par. 14) for general accuracy and prompt transmittal of funds with two copies of returns. Other lodges whose funds came later, but prior to June 1st, have been credited with a proportional rebate, all of which detail is more clearly set forth in the tabulated statement marked Exhibit A.

"The rebates allowed by us amount to \$2,729.43, which amount we recommend be placed to the credit of the respective lodges.

"The returns from lodges Nos. 9, 39 and 225, are not in accordance with the requirements of this Grand Lodge, and those lodges are therefore not entitled to a rebate.

"Lodge No. 178 is for the third consecutive year behind time with their returns, and is required to pay the usual 10 per cent. penalty, amounting this year to \$1.80, in addition to losing all rebate.

"Sec. 101 of our law requires that each chartered lodge shall insure their property against loss by fire, and report thereon to this Grand Lodge. 122 lodges report having insured their property; 42 have not insured, while 56 make no report upon the subject.

"Sec. 104, Par. 18, of our law requires that each lodge shall include with their returns a statement of the families of deceased Master Masons. The only lodge attending to this requirement of the Grand Lodge is Gladstone, No. 176, whose report will be found on file."

Their new Code is completed. An amendment was adopted permitting lodges to exempt from dues any Master Mason who has been in good standing 30 years, and is 65 years of age.

A notable occurrence was the attendance of M. W. Bro. Robert C. Jordan, their first Grand Master. He is nearly 80 years of age, and was Grand Master in 1857.

Lodges, 228; members, 11,836; increase, 66.

Charles J. Phelps (Schuyler), G. M.

William R. Bowen (Omaha), G. S.

NEVADA.

32nd Communication, Winnemucca, June 9, 1896.

Enoch Struther, D. G. M., presiding.

They lament the loss of their Grand Master, Bro. John C. Hazlett, who died in October after a short illness. He had held many positions of responsibility and was most justly esteemed and admired.

The business depression still continues and many of their brethren are moving to other jurisdictions.

The Senior Grand Warden was in charge at the funeral of their Grand Master, who was also a Past Grand Master of

the Grand Lodge of Oddfellows, and the question came up as to the propriety of allowing that Society to participate in the ceremonies ;

“ There was submitted to me, the moment of my arrival at Dayton, a very important, delicate and perplexing question of law, usage and propriety, viz : Was a mixed funeral ceremony permissible upon this occasion, under the circumstances of this particular case, our deceased Grand Master being also a Past Grand Master of Odd Fellows, and that Order desiring, for that reason, to participate with us by alternately performing a portion of the burial service, and having some members of their Order act as pall-bearers.

“ The emergency demanded an immediate decision ; there was no time for discussion or to look for precedent or authority. Several of the persons who desired a mixed ceremony were old, experienced members of our Order, and of this Grand Lodge, consequently I felt some diffidence in disposing of the matter ; but my understanding and recollection of the rule was that such a ceremony could under no circumstances be permitted, and I so decided. Was I right or wrong ?

“ If this question has not been finally and absolutely settled by this Grand Lodge, it certainly should be at an early day, as it is liable to come up at any time, for prominent men are constantly dying who are members of the Masonic and other fraternal organizations, and it is often the case that they and their friends desire what we call a mixed funeral ceremony, and usually feel greatly hurt if it is denied them.”

The matter was referred to the Jurisprudence Committee and their report was adopted as follows :

“ We, your committee to whom was referred the report of the Senior Grand Warden, R. W. Daniel W. Virgin, concerning his ruling and decision at the funeral of our late M. W. Grand Master, John Clarke Hazlett, upon the question of mixed funerals, most respectfully report that in our judgment the decision of the Senior Grand Warden was correct, for the reason that such course has been approved by this Grand Lodge at its session in the year 1886, and the occasion was such as to require some one to make an immediate and final decision in a delicate and perplexing controversy.

“ It only becomes the duty of a lodge to perform our funeral services over the remains of a deceased brother when the deceased brother has so requested.

“ The language of our regulations and funeral service is as follows :

“ From time immemorial it has been the custom among the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, *at the request of a brother*, to accompany his remains to the place of interment, and there to deposit them with the solemn formalities of the Craft.

“ It is the request of a brother that makes it the duty of his lodge to bury him.

“ It has become a custom for members of a lodge to assume that their lodge will bury them without a formal request, and for the lodge to assume that such request has been made unless the contrary appears.

“ These assumptions are proper and natural enough unless there

is some special reason to question them. In all cases such request of a brother should be respected and complied with.

"If a brother should be a member of some other charitable and fraternal order, which has a funeral service, and should request that such other order should perform its funeral rites and services over him, his request should also in that case be respected. In such case his Masonic lodge would have no formal duty to perform. In such case, however, it would be proper for Masons, as individuals, to attend such funeral and pay sincere respect to the services.

"If a brother, also a member of some other fraternal order, should request his Masonic lodge to conduct his funeral services, the Worshipful Master and his lodge should take and assume exclusive control of the funeral ceremonies.

"If a brother, being also a member of some other fraternal order, should die without having made a formal request concerning his funeral, it would be proper for his lodge and its Worshipful Master to consult and respect the wishes of his nearest surviving relatives, but in no case should a lodge, or its Master, suffer itself or himself to be drawn into any controversy or rivalry concerning the burial of our dead.

"We can see no reason why a Masonic lodge should not accept the escort of a Royal Arch Chapter or of a Commandery of Knights Templar on funeral occasions.

"Our funeral service seems to contemplate that at a proper time the Master may permit religious services by the clergymen of such church as the deceased brother may have been a member of, and we can see no good reason why, in lieu of church services, the funeral services of some other fraternal order, of which the deceased was a member, might not be permitted, subject always to the sound discretion and good judgment of the lodge and its Master."

Their finances are again in good shape and so the report on Correspondence is resumed. Bro. Robert Lewers is the author and notices our Proceedings of 1895. In his review of Delaware he has the following on perpetual jurisdiction :

"Hiram Lodge wanted to know whether it could receive a petition from a man who had been rejected by a lodge at Elkton, Maryland, thirty years before, without permission from the Maryland Lodge. The Grand Master decided that a release from the Maryland Lodge was necessary. I suppose it did not make a particle of difference what kind of a life the candidate had been living all the weary thirty years, but was simply a question of perpetual jurisdiction. I wonder whether the man who blackballed him thirty years ago remembers why he did it, or even remembers the fact of the blackballing. I suppose the poor man became a Masonic landmark when he was rejected and can suffer no change though eternity elapse. Truly the question is one past understanding. I wonder whether in the great hereafter some representative of the system will not stand at the White Gates and refuse admittance to the ward of perpetual jurisdiction to the Supreme lodge above until a release from the rejecting lodge can be filed."

Lodges, 20 ; members, 948 ; decrease, 8.

Enoch Struther (Virginia City), G. M.

Chauncey N. Noteware (Carson City), G. S.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

29th Communication, St John, August 25, 1896.

Julius T. Whitlock, G. M.

The advance sheets which we have received from this jurisdiction come to hand at such a late date that we have only time for a very brief notice.

We copy the opening paragraphs of the Grand Master's address:

"Our friendly relations with other Grand Lodges remain undisturbed. Though I have not had the pleasure of a personal visit to Masonic bodies beyond our own Province, yet the hearty good wishes for the welfare of the craft amongst us, which I have received from Grand Masters and other eminent Masons in Canada and elsewhere, in answer to a simple New Year's greeting, have filled my heart with deep emotion, and enable me to realize more than ever before the strength of the mystic tie. From east and west, from north and south, from brethren—some of whom were before unknown to me even by name—have come the most cordial expressions of brotherly love and Masonic charity.

"And there have not been wanting kindly deeds to enforce these sentiments. Of many touching incidents in the affairs of private lodges and individuals, which from time to time have come to my knowledge during the year, I will mention only one of recent occurrence—in the case of our late Brother E. L. Morrison, of Zion Lodge, who passed from his earthly labors a few weeks since at Canon City, Colorado. An unknown traveller in that distant land, when his strength failed him and he reached 'the bound of life where we lay our burdens down,' he would have died alone and friendless, had not a Masonic emblem which he wore brought to his bedside Worshipful Master Stewart, of Mount Moriah Lodge. In him the dying man found a friend and brother, who ministered to his latest needs with an affectionate care that has won the gratitude of our brethren of Zion Lodge, while it displays the true spirit of Masonic brotherhood. The world is wide; but distance cannot place us beyond the reach of a Mason's charity."

A motion to allow dual membership was lost.

The Maine jurisdictional proposition was referred to the Board of General Purposes to report at next meeting.

Lodges, 31; members, 1,774; increase, 10.

Julius T. Whitlock (St. Stephens), G. M.

F. W. Wisdom (St. John), G. S.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

107th Communication, Concord, May 20, 1896.

Charles C. Hays, G. M.

On the state of the Craft he says:

"Masonry in this grand jurisdiction is in a healthy and prosperous condition, never more so, notwithstanding the continuation of the

depression in the business world and the much talked of 'hard times.' This is evidenced by the increase in membership, and the fact that the lodges are occupying better quarters, with better accommodations and better furnishings, and that more buildings are now owned by the order than ever before. This is as it should be, and I congratulate you upon this prosperous condition. No cloud has arisen to cast a shadow over the peace and harmony which prevail between the officers of this grand body and the lodges throughout the state, and nothing has transpired, so far as I am aware, to disturb the relations which exist between this and the other grand jurisdictions.

"In the midst of our success and prosperity it may be well to pause and consider whither we are drifting; whether, as an order, we are not growing and increasing too fast. With the multitude of secret societies springing up around us, all striving for new members and soliciting openly for the same, there is a tendency on the part of some Masons and some lodges to enter into competition with them. I regret to say that some Worshipful Masters are more anxious to increase the membership of their lodges than they seem to be for the good name and reputation of the order. This should not be, and no brother who is a good and true Mason will ever be guilty of this offence. I sound a note of warning at this time. Guard well the outer door of the lodge. It should be our duty as men and as Masons, so far as it is in our power, to sustain the high character and good name of our institution, and never by thought, word or deed suffer its standard to be lowered."

They still hold to the pernicious doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates.

The Wisconsin relief proposition was declined.

Bro. George S. Payne presented to the Grand Lodge a Masonic note written by Lafayette in 1825.

In his review of Wisconsin Bro. Albert S. Wait had a very forcible and convincing argument on a feature of their practice regarding objections to initiation after a clear ballot. The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has decided that if a member gives his reasons for the objection whether the reasons be good or bad, the rejection stands and that the only remedy is to discipline the objector. Bro. Wait then says:

"This decision of the committee, with the reasoning upon which it is reached, although adopted by the grand body, seemed to us shocking, in point both of its logic and its justice. Nor do we think it the law of Masonry. To say that an objection openly made from such a reason as is admittedly unmasonic, and at the same time a masonic offence subjecting the party to charges for unmasonic conduct, and that the objection must still be held to be valid and binding upon the lodge, seems to us nothing less than a palpable absurdity. We never before heard that the punishment of a criminal was a remedy for the injury he had committed by his crime. We never before heard that an act essentially unlawful could legally bind anybody. Nor do we think this conclusion of the committee supported by approved authority. It was among our earliest Masonic instruction, from reading the books of approved authority, that an objection to initiation, with the reasons published to the lodge, was

a submission of the validity of the reasons to the judgment of the lodge. We have never doubted, and do not now doubt, the Masonic soundness of the law as thus stated."

Canada for 1895 receives fraternal attention.

In reply to Bro. Robbins, of Illinois, who asserts that all legitimate Masonry is derived from the Grand Lodge of England, Bro. Wait indulges in the following piece of "jingoism":

"We would fain ask him: What of Masonry before the Grand Lodge of England was formed? Was there no Masonry until that time? If there was, was it confined exclusively to England? Whence did England obtain its Masonry? Was it indigenous to England, originating exclusively there? Our teachings are all to the contrary, and we feel warranted in believing that no student of the history and antiquities of our institution will at this day venture such an assertion. That Masonry existed, not only in England, but on the continent of Europe, indefinite ages before the Grand Lodge of England was formed, is not only the general belief of the fraternity, but it is the ascertained fact of history. Out of the ages that Masonry has existed has been evolved the axiom that it is universal. What right has the Grand Lodge of England, or any one in its behalf, to assert that no legitimate Masonry exists except it trace its origin from a point of time which in comparison with its traditions is but as yesterday? Every assumption of the institution postulates its origin in ages unknown and its character as universal. The Grand Lodge of England is no fountain from which Masonry has originally sprung. Its fountains are elsewhere and in regions not yet, and probably never to be, explored. So far from the Grand Lodge of England having the right to assert its own exclusive legitimacy, its own legitimacy was at its formation open to criticism from the legitimate Masonry of the European continent. At any rate the test of legitimacy in Masonry is not its traceability to an English Grand Lodge origin. The test is rather its common object, attainable by like means with the Masonry we know. It is its similarity of type, not its actually known line of descent."

Lodges, 77; members, 8 963; increase, 125.

Henry A. Marsh (Nashua), G. M.

George P. Cleaves (Concord), G. S.

NEW JERSEY.

110th Communication, Trenton, January 27, 1897.

Josiah W. Ewan, D. G. M., presiding.

The Grand Master Bro. George W. Fortmeyer, was absent through illness. In July, 1896, he wrote to the Prince of Wales suggesting a Congress of Freemasons to be held in London, but received no reply. He says that the uniform excellence of the work in the lodges attests the thoroughness of the instruction by the District Deputies. He reports one new lodge.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That a standing committee be appointed at this communication, and each year thereafter, by the M. W. Grand Master, which shall consist of the M. W. Grand Master and five other mem-

bers of the Grand Lodge, to be known as the Committee on Masonic Home.

"That it shall be the duty of such committee to obtain a proper building and surrounding property to be used as a home for indigent or helpless Masons, their widows and children; to adopt all necessary rules and regulations for the government thereof; to prescribe the qualifications for admission to such home and generally to exercise full control thereof, subject to the direction of the M. W. Grand Lodge.

"That such committee shall have power to inaugurate such measures as they shall deem best for raising funds necessary for the performance of the duties hereby imposed upon them, and are authorized to make use of the permanent charity fund of the Grand Lodge for such purposes."

The following report was adopted :

"*Second.* In answer to the question propounded by Worshipful Brother William P. Weiser, your committee would state that a lodge has the right to refuse to receive the petition of a profane, and therefore a motion to return such a petition would be in order; and this would be so, whether the petitioner had been previously rejected by the lodge or not.

"*Third.* In answer to a question propounded by the M. W. Grand Master, as follows: What is the proper place for a Masonic Lodge in a funeral procession when other organizations join in the obsequies of a dead Mason? Your committee are of opinion that the proper position of the lodge in the funeral procession is immediately preceding or surrounding the hearse."

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was recognized.

In his review of Canada for 1896, Bro. George B. Edwards says :

"That a supervision, of more than usual care, over the subordinates prevailed, is attested by the detailed reports of the District Deputies, which occupy more than one hundred and fifty pages of the printed proceedings. No wonder that a motion carried that it be received and considered as read. From the report of the board on the condition of Masonry, the inspection of subordinates, and the efforts in this field of Masonry are matters of extreme satisfaction at home and of prideful recognition from their neighbors.

"The introductory of the report of the board on fraternal dead is written in beautiful language; it is imbued with a strain of poetic thought and colored with a sunset of radiance that mark it as the labor of one who had wrought in the light of the column of beauty. It was fraternally submitted by Brother George C. Davis."

Under "California" he defends the Quakers :

"One of the lodges under dispensation was continued and another received a charter, the latter being situated in 'a small village of about twelve hundred inhabitants, half of whom are Quakers, and are bitterly opposed to Masonry.' The chances of sustaining a small lodge were thought to be good. If there is any class of men more entitled to the privileges of Masonry than the Quakers, this writer does not know it. In the history of New Jersey there have been two Quakers who have held high office, and who were for many years shining lights in the Masonic order. One was for a long term the

Senior Past Grand Master, and the other the Grand Secretary for nearly half of the present century. No names are placed higher on rolls of Masonry than those of Brothers Joseph Trimble, Past Grand Master, and Joseph H. Honghs, Grand Secretary."

Lodges, 166; members, 16,094; increase, 419.

George W. Fortmeyer (East Orange), G. M.

Thos. H. R. Redway (Trenton), G. S.

NEW MEXICO.

19th Communication, East Las Vegas, October 5, 1896.

James H. Wroth, G. M.

The Grand Master found the majority of the lodges in healthy condition and fairly prosperous. He was surprised to see the courage and activity with which the brethren prosecuted their Masonic labors in spite of the hard times and incident depression.

The business transacted was entirely local in interest, with exception of the presentation of the following report on the proposed National Masonic Home for Consumptives at Santa Fe :

"Brethren—The committee of Montezuma Lodge, having charge of the matters pertaining to the establishment of a National Masonic Home for Consumptives of Santa Fe, New Mexico, beg leave to report that during the year just passed the work accomplished has been the distribution of literature and circulars, setting forth the advantages of Santa Fe in particular, and New Mexico in general as the ideal section of the United States for the cure and prevention of pulmonary and bronchial diseases and afflictions of that kind.

"Your committee beg leave to say that owing to the general business depression and political disturbances that have prevailed in the United States within the past year it has been unable to make any more headway or do any other work. There can be no question but that the work of your committee has been of such a character as to induce hundreds of persons suffering from and afflicted with pulmonary troubles to visit many sections of the territory during the past year and your committee doubts not that during the years to come the work will prove of greater benefit in this direction.

"Your Committee is of the opinion that in more prosperous times, and an easier flow of money in business channels, it will be more successful.

"The committee proposes during the present year to keep on with the distribution of literature throughout the Masonic world, concerning this very beneficial and philanthropic undertaking, and to advertise as fully as possible to the Masons throughout the country the advantages of the superior climate of New Mexico, thus building a foundation for other work that will be necessary, and at the proper time to gather subscriptions and get funds together for the fulfillment of the plans of the association."

Bro. Max Frost reports on correspondence and reviews Canada for 1896.

Lodges, 20 ; members, 894 ; increase, 11.

Charles Bowmer (Lucero), G. M.

Alpheus A. Kean (Albuquerque), G. S.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Proceedings from June, 1895 to June, 1896.

Bro. Sir Joseph P. Abbott, G. M.

Bro. Dr. W. G. Sedgwick, P. G. M., died August, 1895.

A letter was received from the Grand Orient of Italy, asking the Grand Lodge to send a representative to the celebration of the anniversary of the unification of Italy. The Board resolved that the Grand Master be invited to cable the fraternal congratulations of the Grand Lodge to the Grand Orient of Italy, whereupon the Grand Master sent the following letter :

“ PARLIAMENT HOUSE,

“ SYDNEY, 10th September, 1895.

“ DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

“ In the report of the Board of General Purposes, I notice a paragraph in reference to the Grand Orient of Italy. The matter appears to be one of so strong a political character that I do venture to hope that the Grand Lodge will not for a moment entertain the same, as to do so would be to associate the Grand Lodge with the politics of a foreign nation, from which we should at all times keep clear.

“ I am sorry that I shall not be able to attend the Grand Lodge to-morrow night.

“ I am, dear Sir and Brother,

“ Yours fraternally,

“ J. P. ABBOTT.

“ To Right Worshipful T. E. Spencer, Deputy Grand Master.”

The Deputy Grand Master did not like to take the extreme course of ruling the paragraph out of order, but commended the letter of the Grand Master to the serious consideration of the Grand Lodge. And the Grand Lodge, nevertheless, adopted the report.

The Grand Lodge donated £50 to a lodge to assist them in a lawsuit brought by certain brethren formerly members of the same lodge when under the English Constitution, to obtain the furniture, jewels and other lodge property.

The work is reported of a most creditable nature, with strict attention to all the details and sufficient solemnity to make the degrees impressive.

An address was presented to the new Governor, Viscount Hampden.

The Board ruled that an honorary member, who does not pay dues to his lodge was only entitled to attend the meetings of the lodge. In Grand Lodge this was reversed, and a resolution passed that all members whose dues are paid to Grand Lodge are entitled to all the privileges of lodge members.

The Library was open to the Craft on every Monday evening, and the attendance was fairly good.

At the close of the year the Deputy Grand Master delivered an address, from which we quote as follows :

"The foregoing figures will naturally cause us to pause and consider our position, and in doing so, in the light of my knowledge of the various lodges and their workings, I feel that we have no real cause for regret. We are not a public company or a commercial organization, whose success is to be measured exactly by our income, or our increase in membership. I have thought, and others have thought, that Freemasonry has in these latter days been increasing too rapidly, and I have for years been trying to impress the brethren with the fact that our success as Freemasons depends far more upon quality than quantity. I am convinced that wholesale initiations are a great element of weakness and danger to the best principles of the craft, and I also believe that our present decrease is due to the fact that a large number of undesirable members are gradually dropping out, that greater caution is being exercised in the issuing of warrants for new lodges, and that the members generally are getting increasingly careful as to the kind of men they introduce into our order. If this is correct, then the decrease in our membership and the falling off in our revenue may be received with equanimity and with a feeling of satisfaction.

"During my numerous visits to lodges, I have noticed with a large degree of pleasure that our members and lodges seem to be cultivating a spirit of charity and benevolence, and that the members generally seem to be practising to a greater extent the intellectual side of Freemasonry, and that while they do not neglect the old traditional hospitality of the craft, the lodges spend far less of their income in the way of refreshments than was formerly the custom.

"The expressions of loyalty and good feeling displayed by the private lodges towards the Grand Lodge have been extremely gratifying, but this feeling has one embarrassing feature, and that is, that this kindness and good feeling is carried to such an extent that the Grand Lodge officers are frequently required to be in two or three places at the same time."

Lodges, 215 ; members, 7,078 ; decrease, 445.

Arthur H. Bray (Sydney), G. S.

NEW YORK.

115th Communication, New York, June 2, 1896.

John Stewart, G. M.

Earnest effort has been made to secure proficiency in the work and lectures, and with good results.

The condition of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund is

most gratifying. With over \$41,000 in its General Fund, and over \$189,000 in its Reserve, all safely invested, the future of the Home would appear to be assured.

All but three of the German lodges are members of the German Masonic Temple Association, and they take great delight in maintaining their Home at Tappan for the aged and infirm.

The Warrant of a lodge was arrested for admitting persons of questionable reputation, and the offenders were promptly expelled. Fifty-four of the innocent members were granted a dispensation for a new lodge, and fifty others affiliated with other lodges.

The recent Act of the State Legislature consolidating the cities of New York and Brooklyn necessitated a re-arrangement of the Metropolitan Districts.

The brother who, more than fifty years ago, while filling the office of Grand Secretary, evolved the idea of building a Hall in New York out of the revenues of which should be erected and maintained a Home for the indigent brother, the destitute widow, and the helpless orphan, "builded better than he knew." Among the 151 inmates of the Home is the daughter of the founder of their Hall and Asylum Fund.

From the report on the Home we take the following :

"A year ago the trustees were authorized by the Grand Lodge to enlarge the home building at an estimated cost of \$57,500. The improvements contemplated included the extension of the east wing, the enlargement of the dining room, and the erection of a hospital.

"Our experience has demonstrated that it is not feasible to continue for any considerable time a population of men, women and children as one household living under one roof, it being an unhealthy atmosphere for children to be reared in constant daily contact with those who have been so unfortunate in life that they are not able to take care of themselves. The trustees, therefore, were unanimous in the opinion that the proposed plan should be so far modified that the building of the hospital and the extension of the east wing should be deferred for the present, and in lieu thereof there should be erected an entirely separate building, connected by a corridor with the main building, and to be devoted exclusively to the maintenance, education, and training of children, the building to be known as the 'Memorial Building for Children,' and in memory of such persons who have, or may hereafter, by legacy or gift, contribute the funds required for its completion.

"This building will accommodate sixty children, besides teachers and servants. The erection of the Memorial Building, and a new dining room, which will be 103 feet long by 30 feet wide, with accommodation for 250 persons, will enable the trustees to divide the vacated children's dormitories and the old dining room into sleeping apartments for the accommodation of fifty adults. * * *

"For the year 1894-95 the total current expenses, including house repairs, farm and barn, were \$28,019.54; the average number of in-

mates being 101, representing a *per capita* cost of \$276.32 per annum, or \$5.31 per week.

"For the year 1895-96 these items are reported to amount to \$28,653.48; the average number of inmates being 135, representing a *per capita* cost of \$212.25 per annum, or \$4.08 per week. This shows a reduction of \$64.07 per annum, or \$1.23 per week, in the cost of maintenance.

"This satisfactory result is due partly to increase of population, but largely to the wise economy and management of the superintendent. While it is confidently believed that the minimum cost of maintenance has not been reached, it is gratifying to report that even now it compares favorably with our State institutions. The Utica State Hospital, for example, with a population of over one thousand, has a yearly *per capita* cost of \$203.32. The Hudson River State Hospital, with a population of over thirteen hundred, has a yearly *per capita* cost of \$216.52. In comparisons with State charities it is well to remember that our Home is for unfortunate members of the Fraternity, and that they are not wards of the State; that with us no dietary or ration allowance prevails; that, while a true economy is maintained, wholesome and nourishing food in abundance is furnished in the Home provided by the Masonic Fraternity of this commonwealth for its sons, our brothers, their widows and helpless children. * * *

During the year an elevator has been placed in the Home at a cost (including additions incident thereto) of \$2,500, which it is believed will add much to the comfort of the inmates.

"Six years have passed since the trustees placed before the Grand Lodge plans for the Home building, at an approximate cost of \$150,000. There was in bank \$185,000 to meet the expenditure. To-day the Fraternity has a magnificent Home, in which 195 persons have been maintained in comfort, and upon which more than \$267,000 has been expended, and there is in bank and securities over \$231,000 for its support and enlargement.

"Your Home, brethren, has proved 'no Utopian dream'; the blessings of the Almighty and the liberality of our noble Fraternity have made it a great, a practical, and permanent charity.

"May the writer of this report, who is about to return to your hands the great trust with which he has been honored for six eventful years, be allowed to conclude with the earnest prayer that this grand charity may continue always to be the pride and joy of the Masonic Fraternity of this Imperial jurisdiction, and that it shall be known as the Masons' Home from whose walls, to the end of time, shall perpetually flow 'a blessing for the little child, a blessing for the widowed woman, and a blessing for the wayworn man.'

The Grand Lecturer held exemplifications of the work in every District in the State. The interest shown by the Craft was most pleasing and satisfactory.

The Library is now in good shape. Every book, pamphlet, magazine, every scrap of paper was taken down, carefully examined, indexed and catalogued.

All the Grand Officers were elected by acclamation.

A revised Constitution was adopted.

We again copy the Jurisprudence Committee's report :

"The Standing Committee on Jurisprudence would respectfully report that two applications have been referred to them, viz.:

"One from the Grand Lodge of Chili and one from the Grand Lodge of San Domingo each applying for recognition and change of representatives.

"Your committee report that it is the settled policy of this Grand Lodge to decline a recognition and exchange of representatives with any but independent Grand Lodges of Symbolic Masonry, wholly independent of and not under the control of any other body of Freemasonry, whether of the York or Scottish Rite.

"The papers presented to your committee do not furnish sufficient evidence that either of these Grand Lodges seeking recognition (both of Scottish Rite origin and originally receiving their authority from and being under the control of a Supreme Council of A. A. S. Rite) have separated therefrom, and with the consent of the Supreme Council become independent of and taken entire control of the three symbolic degrees. We do not question the right of Supreme Councils of the A. A. S. Rite to control and confer the first three symbolic degrees in all countries where that is the dominant Rite, and we recognize Master Masons made under that authority as regular, and as much entitled to our regard and recognition as if made under our authority, but until the Supreme Council has relinquished its authority over the three symbolic degrees (as has been done in this and other jurisdictions), and the control of the three symbolic degrees has been relegated to symbolic Grand Lodges entirely independent of other authority, we cannot recognize the Grand Lodge organization.

"Until we have full information as to their organization and copies of their present constitutions we cannot intelligently report to you or recommend any action other than to decline an exchange of representatives with either the Grand Lodge of Chili or San Domingo.

"At the same time, we do not question the legitimacy of any brother made a Master Mason in a lodge created by a Supreme Council in any country where the A. and A. Rite is the dominant Rite. He is as regular as any made in either New York or Pennsylvania. 'The bodies of the York Rite do not embrace the whole of Free and Accepted Freemasonry.'

"Masonry is recognized throughout the world as just as legitimate in all countries where the three symbolic degrees are controlled and conferred by the bodies of the Scottish Rite as it is in this country, where they are solely under the control of the York Rite. Whichever Rite is the dominant Rite in any country has control of the symbolic degrees by full consent of all, and until the Supreme Councils in those countries relinquish control of the first three degrees to Independent Grand Lodges, we should recognize all Master Masons made under their authority, and allow them to visit and affiliate with our lodges under the same Masonic restrictions as if made in lodges of the York Rite.

"The only exception to this rule is Masons hailing from the atheistic Grand Orient of France are debarred by the edict of this Grand Lodge and cannot be recognized as legitimate under any circumstances.

"Master Masons hailing from lodges under the obedience of the Supreme Council of France are not under this ban, as they are entirely independent of and antagonistic to the atheistic doctrines of the Grand Orient.

"We recommend the adoption of the following:

"*Resolved*, That the applications of the Grand Lodges of Chili and San Domingo for recognition and exchange of representatives be denied until we have definite information as to their present status as Independent Grand Lodges of Symbolic Masonry.

"*Resolved*, That we fully recognize the legitimacy of Master Masons made in lodges of the A. and A. Rite in countries where that is the dominant Rite, and welcome them to the right of visitation and affiliation under the usual Masonic restrictions, the same as if made in lodges of our obedience, those of the obedience of the Grand Orient of France alone expected."

The report on Correspondence is again by Bro. Jesse B. Anthony and the translations of Foreign Proceedings by Bro. Ernest Ringer. In his review of Maine, Brother Anthony says:

"Attention is directed to the fact that in Maine the same effect is given to a rejection as in the jurisdiction in which the original rejection occurred. 'No rejected candidate from Oregon, Pennsylvania, or any other Grand Jurisdiction holding the law of perpetual jurisdiction can be received in Maine without the consent of the rejecting lodge.' This naturally obviates any clash of interest between Grand Bodies. New York recognizes the same principle in the requirement of the consent of the rejecting lodge.

"This question can only be settled upon some middle ground, and in New York we occupy such a position. For while holding to the principle of perpetual jurisdiction it is of a qualified character, inasmuch as the consent for a relinquishment of jurisdiction between lodges under its government can be granted by a majority vote. This relieves it of the iron-clad claim of a one-man power following a candidate forever. We are emphatically and teetotally opposed to any such principle."

In his review of Canada for 1895 he says:

"We have always supposed that a candidate's place of residence (for Masonic purposes) was where his family resided.

"In a case submitted, wherein a candidate claimed that affirmation on his part should be accepted in lieu of the usual prescribed form, it was held 'that the refusal of a candidate to conform to any of our usages' would be a bar to his further progress. To our mind, the whole matter may be briefly summed up as a distinction without any difference. It is based upon conscientious scruples, and in one case as binding as any other.

"The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters cover one hundred and seventy-seven pages, and from them we gather that out of the three hundred and fifty-one lodges on the roll all but thirty-five had been officially visited by said officials. This is certainly a remarkable exhibit."

The Grand Lodge of the Three Globes at Berlin was founded in 1740 by Frederick the Great. It is the largest in Germany, having 124 lodges and 67 Scottish lodges, with a membership of 13,589 brethren and 285 benevolent institutions. This Grand Lodge refused to send a delegate to Italy as "it is

in contravention of our institution for a Masonic body to publicly take part in any national festival."

The lodge at Caracas, South America, was founded in 1817. It denies positively, through its Grand Master, that it ever strove to antagonize the inherited faith of the Roman Catholic Church, although it was much opposed to the misrule of the clergy.

In the notice of the Grand Lodge of the Eclectic Union at Frankport we find the following :

"While we in America consider the practice of charity the foremost duty of a Mason, in Germany the labor at the rough stone or ashlar is held to be the most important part of the work. The consequence is that Freemasonry in Germany occupies a higher intellectual position than it does in many other countries. In the lodge in question, 'Frederick of Justice,' twenty-four discourses on various subjects have been delivered in the preceding year. For the sake of illustration we quote the following: The Master's Duties, Religion and Freemasonry, Aim and Object of Freemasonry, Freemasonry a Society of Peace, Masonic Affairs before the Establishment of the Grand Lodge of England, The Relation of Art to Freemasonry, On the Means for the Obtaining of the End, Masonic Prospects, The Progress of Masonic Ideas, Our Duties, The Labor of the Entered Apprentice, The Future of the Lodge and the Master's Word, Reflections on Lessing's Essay on Death, The Symbolism of the Master's Degree, Ethics of Freemasonry, Spirit and Form, Our Programme, the Pass-Word of F. C., etc. And all this intellectual labor has been performed by a lodge that has just entered into existence and counts no more than sixty-two members, namely, thirty-one M. Masons, fifteen F. Crafts, and sixteen E. Apprentices. Besides, nineteen candidates have been initiated, fifteen passed, and four raised."

The following refers to the Grand Lodge of Saxony :

"The Grand Lodge was organized in 1811. Twelve lodges combined for this purpose. The Constitutions were accepted and signed by the Union. They are very liberal. They do not forbid the high degrees, but simply ignore them, and deal only with the Craft. They permit any ritual, provided that a copy has first been presented to the Grand Lodge for approval, and that any alteration made afterwards meets with its consent. The consequence is that four different rituals are worked in the lodges—namely, the Schröder ritual, or that of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, which is recommended *par excellence* by the Grand Lodge; the ritual of the Three Globes; the Fessler ritual of the Grand Lodge of Royal York; and that of the Grand National Lodge of Germany (Swedish system).

"The Grand Lodge consists of two bodies—the legislative and the executive—which deliberate together. The first, however, is alone invested with legislative powers, each lodge having but one vote, while the other is purely executive, its voice being merely deliberative. The legislative body is composed of the Master, Deputy Master, and Wardens of each lodge, and a brother especially nominated who resides at the seat of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Officers, chosen from the members of the legislative body, constitute the executive power. Past Grand Officers have no seat in the Grand Lodge.

"The revision of the statutes, begun in 1764, was completed in 1876. The chief alteration was the declaration that the Jews were eligible for initiation—they had already been admitted in 1837."

This is from Denmark:

"In the 1st degree the brethren are styled *diligent*; the 2d, *zealous*; the 3d, *worthy*; the 4th, *elected*; the 5th, *most worshipful*; the 6th, *shining*; 7th, *much shining*; 8th, *most shining*; the 9th, *enlightened*; the 10th, *much enlightened*; and the 11th, *most enlightened*. From the 5th to the 6th degree a period of two years elapses, but after that, advancement is very difficult. In lodges up to the 7th degree the brethren wear evening dress and silk hats, except that the E. Apprentices and F. Crafts may not wear the latter in the lodge."

Lodges, 737; members, 90,874; increase, 2301.

John Stewart (New York), G. M.

Edward M. L. Ehlers (New York), G. S.

NEW ZEALAND.

Annual Communication, Dunedin, April 30, 1896.

Malcolm Niccol, P. G. M. presiding, the Grand Master being absent in England.

The death is announced of Bro. E. T. Gillon, P. G. M., who is called the parent of the Grand Lodge. He was a bright and shining light among the brethren.

From the reports of the Board we take the following:

"A tabulated statement of benevolence disbursed by the Board from the 1st of May, 1890, to the present date is appended, and shows that the Grand Lodge fund of benevolence has always been administered irrespective of constitution or nationality, and with the universal beneficence which should at all times characterize Freemasons.

"In addition to the actual grants made by the Board, the Grand Master has, upon the Board's recommendation, sanctioned the issue to lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand of numerous appeals made by lodges of Sister Constitutions. And although from absence of complete data the actual figures cannot be given, it is safe to say that very large sums have been contributed in this manner, whilst it is equally gratifying to be able to record that similar appeals issued in urgent cases by our own lodges have received a like prompt and generous response from those of other constitutions evidencing that all are still working together in harmony where the true and practical spirit of benevolence is concerned." * * *

"The circular letter issued by the Board on behalf of the special fund for Masonic Widows and Orphans was very generally and warmly responded to by the lodges, resulting in an addition of more than £100 to the fund. This result cannot but be regarded as very satisfactory, and the Board desires to sincerely thank all contributing lodges. In again bringing this fund prominently under the notice of the brethren, the Board ventures earnestly to hope that the efforts made last year will be repeated, with the result that the Widows' and Orphans' Fund may before long become operative, and so

relieve the General Fund from the additional burden which is now cast upon it." * * *

"During the year much consideration has been given to the state and circumstances of every lodge, and your Board is glad to report the generally prosperous state of the majority. In some instances there has been considerable improvement, and work is being carried on under more promising and favourable conditions."

Their total funds amount to £1545.

The Grand Lodge office was removed from Wellington to Dunedin.

A much more fraternal feeling is now existing with the members of the other Constitutions, and visitors are more frequent, notwithstanding the ban which has been placed upon them.

There are marked signs of a great revival in the gold mining industry in the West Coast district.

Lodges 104 ; membership not given.

William Barron, G. M.

Rev. Wm. Donaldson (Dunedin), G. S.

NORTH CAROLINA.

110th Communication, Raleigh, January 12, 1897.

Francis M. Moye, G. M.

The following extract from the address of the Grand Master shows the Craft to be prospering and full of hope for the future :

"Taking a retrospective view of the work which, with your kind assistance, I have been able to accomplish for the order the past two years, I am happy to state at the close of my term of office as Grand Master, that the condition of Masonry in this jurisdiction is most encouraging, and presents to my successor an inviting field which promises a rich harvest in return for the zeal and ability, I have no doubt will characterize his administration.

"While my efforts have not been crowned with the full measure of success I had hoped for, I rejoice that something at least has been done which though small will redound I trust to the future good of our beloved institution.

"It has been my unremitting purpose to impress upon the minds of the brethren the great fact that the Masonic order, not so much on account of its antiquity and beauty of ceremony, but because of its sublime moral principles, deserves to occupy a place in our hearts second only to that of the Christian religion.

"The supervision of the craft by the Grand Master is necessarily of a general character. In the absence of any system of official visitation which it seems impracticable to inaugurate in view of the large expense it would impose upon the Grand Lodge, it is impossible to keep in touch with the almost three hundred lodges in the State. While this is true my official correspondence has been large and

varied, and I am indebted to some of the brethren for valuable information furnished me from time to time during the year, which has compensated in no small degree for the difficulties to which I refer. A few disturbing elements of minor importance have been encountered, but in the settlement of these troubles the Square, Plumb line and Rule have been applied with happy results, and no discordant sound is now heard amid the perfect harmony that seems to pervade the entire jurisdiction and extending to our Sister Grand bodies, with whom the most pleasant relations continue to exist.

"Since our last grand communication eight new lodges have been established under dispensation and the charters of two which for some time were dormant have been restored, adding to our list ten active working lodges.

"The Oxford Orphan Asylum, the great work of Masonry in North Carolina, to which I shall make more extended reference is to-day in the enjoyment of a degree of prosperity hitherto unknown in its history."

The Wisconsin relief proposition was declined.

The following resolution was adopted :

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge, that as all elective Past Grand officers, viz.: Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurers and Grand Secretaries, are members of this Grand Body, and so recognized by our Constitution, that it is therefore right and proper that their expenses while attending the one annual communication, should be paid by this Grand Lodge."

Bro. John A. Collins presented an excellent report on Correspondence, reviewing three years Proceedings, including those of Canada for 1895 and 1896, in which we find the following complimentary remarks :

"The financial status of that Grand Jurisdiction is something of which our Canadian brethren may well be proud. Permanent investments of \$75,000; and a balance of cash in bank of \$11,575.01.

"The report of the Board of Benevolence shows that in the two years, 1894 and 1895, there was expended for the widow and orphan and needy brethren the handsome sum of \$18,005.

"The Board closes its report with this significant paragraph, which speaks louder than forty volumes as to the active charities of these big hearted Masons :

"Total grants for benevolent purposes of \$218,084.65 out of a total revenue of \$487,028.30 during the forty years of existence of Grand Lodge, must be a subject of gratification to every member of Grand Lodge.

"Bro. John E. Harding, chairman of the sub-committee, who makes this modest report of nearly one-half the receipts being devoted to benevolence, has given the craft everywhere a subject of gratification, and, it may be, an inspiration to nobler effort.

"As accounting somewhat for the prosperity, zeal and compact organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada, it is worthy of note that of the 296 pages devoted to the proceedings, about 175 pages are devoted to the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, who give succinctly the history and condition of every subordinate or private

lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction. And these are not perfunctory reports—all business, strictly Masonic business."

Lodges, 290 ; members, 10,370 ; increase, 215.

Walter E. Moore (Webster), G. M.

John C. Drewry (Raleigh), G. S.

NORTH DAKOTA.

7th Communication, Fargo, June 9, 1896.

William H. Best, G. M.

The past year has been one of steady progress. Two new lodges were opened. No grievances or appeals. An increase in their finances, an increase in membership and the largest annual gathering they ever had makes them proud. The address concludes as follows :

"I care not whether history records the existence of Free Masonry previous to A. D. 1717 or not; this much I do know, that for thousands of years previous to this date there lived and prospered a people capable of self-government, skilled in all the arts and sciences, builders of temples, synagogues and schools of learning, who recognized the handiwork of the Supreme Architect of the Universe in every particle of matter on which they trod, every blade of grass which covered the field, every flower that bloomed and made fragrant the air they breathed. Whether they examined the bowels of the earth, the wonders of the deep, or gazed upon a planetary system and beheld the wonderful regularity and velocity of those bodies through space, they found evidences of Divine wisdom and goodness. Whether we depend upon the mythological shadows of the past or accept the light that recent history sheds upon ancient legends, the same sublime lessons of Wisdom, Hope, Charity and Fellowship ; the centralization of one common thought, 'The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man,' have been handed down to us from generation to generation, and our rites and ceremonieis cover all the moral, social and spiritual conditions of mankind."

The Grand Lecturer reports that the esoteric work of the lodges obtains in such purity that there was no need of his services.

The Wisconsin proposition as to relief was not adopted.

The Grand Master was authorized to exchange representatives with the Grand Orients of Italy and Greece, and to bring about fraternal relations with the Scandinavian Grand Bodies.

There is no report on Correspondence, as the time of the Grand Secretary was fully taken up with perfecting their new Grand Lodge Register of membership. That work is about one-third done and another year will be required to finish it.

Lodges, 46 ; members, 2535 ; increase, 173.

William T. Perkins (Bismarck), G. M.

Frank J. Thompson (Fargo), G. S.

NOVA SCOTIA.

31st Communication, Halifax, June 10, 1896.

Wm. F. MacCoy, G. M.

He desires closer relations with the other Provinces of Canada.

"There have been but few communications received from other Grand Lodges during the Masonic year. Indeed, in this province, we appear to be somewhat isolated from our brethren in other jurisdictions, especially in Canada, and while we congratulate our brethren there on the wonderful progress they have made, yet I feel that some system should be devised having for its object closer relations between our grand bodies, whereby the interest of the Craft in Canada would be considered, brotherly love extended, its influence for good felt, and that charity which vaunteth not cemented amongst us. I called the attention of this Grand Lodge to this matter at our last communication, and I again mention it with the hope that you in your wisdom will find some means to carry out these views. I would suggest that a committee be appointed to open negotiations with the other lodges of the Dominion, in order to ascertain the views of these grand bodies on the subject.

"It appears to me that if representatives from the various grand bodies were appointed to meet at a central place to discuss masonic matters, and consult together as to the best means of uniting and consolidating Masonry in Canada, it would have a great effect upon the influence of the Craft, and uniting us to a greater extent than at present. Such is the modern tendency of all organized bodies, and this grand old order founded in antiquity developed in love and practiced in charity, whose foundations are based on the eternal principles of charity, brotherly love, relief and truth, should not be behind, but should rather lead in disseminating its grand old principles. I must apologize to the craft for suggesting the means that should be adopted, but it is with no desire to deprive you of the right to formulate the means to accomplish the object in view, but rather to assist this grand body in arriving at a conclusion in the matter."

A movement is on foot to establish a Masonic Home for the Maritime Provinces, and a committee was appointed to work with the Grand Lodges of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to further that object.

It was recommended that at all entertainments of Grand and subordinate lodges, the use of spirituous liquors and wines be strictly prohibited.

In consideration of his eminent services as Chairman of the Correspondence Committee for many years, Bro. T. B. Flint was accorded the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master. He reviews the Proceedings of Canada for 1895 and 1896 and in his notice of Scotland, he says :

"We may here say that it has come under our own observation, that brethren receiving their degrees in lodges in Scotland or lodges under Scottish authority, coming to this country and desiring admis-

sion as visitors to our lodges, are found most deficient in their knowledge of masonry, and in many cases fail to gain admittance to a lodge, through their ignorance of the first rudiments of masonry. The possession of a Grand Lodge certificate is no proof of being a mason in good standing.

This is owing to the fact that candidates receive their degrees without undergoing any examination as to their proficiency in the preceding degrees; and we are informed that it is not an uncommon thing for a candidate to receive his three degrees in one evening. We submit that our practice, and we believe that of every jurisdiction on this continent, of insisting upon every candidate for advancement, to show a reasonable knowledge of the principles inculcated in the preceding degrees, and 28 days must intervene between degrees, is the right one. How can a candidate who receives three degrees in one evening be expected to remember or be able to give satisfactory answers to questions referring to these degrees when called upon to do so, if he wishes to visit a lodge outside of Scotland."

Lodges, 64; members, 3,351; increase, 82.

John W. Ruhland (Halifax), G. M.

Hon. William Ross (Halifax), G. S.

OHIO.

87th Communication, Cincinnati, Oct. 21, 1896.

William B. Melish, G. M.

This volume is embellished with a fine portrait of the Grand Master and a most interesting photographic group of all the Past Grand Masters since 1875. They are a remarkably fine body of men, with a wealth of intelligence, a prodigality of good looks and a perfect superabundance of intellectuality.

The year just ended has been marked with the maintenance of a high standard of Masonic excellence and the greatest degree of harmony.

On decisions the Grand Master says:

"The Grand Master has made no decisions of law during his term. This announcement may bring about a stroke of paralysis to some of our elder brethren who have attended Grand Lodge for a score of years. The effect it will have on the learned and usually hardworked Committee on Jurisprudence can not be foretold, but it is to be hoped the committee will conclude that they are entitled to a 'day off,' and spend the time enjoying the hospitality of the Cincinnati brethren. As the Committee on Grievances has but one case to worry over, these two committees will have an opportunity to commune over a jurisdiction that revels in harmony, and also, I may add, in too much law."

The revision of their new Code cost over \$2500 and it is not satisfactory. It contains only 712 items of law, many of them conflicting and redundant.

The long drawn out litigation about the "Cerneaus" has been finally terminated and entirely in favor of the Grand

Lodge. The courts held that the Grand Lodge alone has the right to determine what is unmasonic conduct, and that when it has determined a question of this character, the Masons are bound to observe the law as established by the Grand Lodge. This decision sustained the authority of the Grand Lodge to forbid the members of the Fraternity from joining or attending organizations of the Cerneaus or in any other way giving recognition to these spurious bodies.

Bro. W. M. Cunningham presented another of his extensive and elaborate reports on Correspondence, covering 347 pages, and including a good notice of Canada for 1896.

Lodges, 497 ; members, 40,839 ; increase, 933.

Barton Smith (Toledo), G. M.

J. H. Bromwell (Cincinnati), G. S.

OKLAHOMA.

4th Communication, Perry, Feb. 11, 1896.

Charles A. Newman, G. M.

He reports five new lodges, and four Schools of Instruction.

The Grand Orator delivered an address which is published in full in the Proceedings. Here is a sample of Western eloquence.

"We can't vote railroad bonds down here even if we want to do so.

"However, we have amply provided for bankruptcy in another way, and have already voted more bonds for the benefit of county officials than we will ever be able to pay ; and under the wise provisions of the laws of the United States, we have already reached the four per cent limit and got to the end of the string.

"But we also, like the citizens of Syria, are having a new railroad built into the far east, and pretty soon we are going to have a new pilgrimage to the orient.

"As Moses went to Canaan for milk and honey, so we have gone to McAlester for coal, and are going to Little Rock for lumber, and though we may not find the wine-grapes of Eschol and Samaria, we'll knock the sweet persimmons of Arkansas with the long pole of hard cash.

"Already the crack of the mule driver's whip and the ring of the spade and shovel have been heard among the black-jacks, the sand-hills of the north Canadian have been levelled by the graders and soon the iron horse who now takes his morning gallop eastward from Oklahoma City to McAlester, will extend his journey toward the dawn, and fill his iron belly and refresh his nerves of steel at set of sun, in the fair pastures of the locomotive among the the coal banks and lumber yards of distant Arkansas.

"When that glad hour arrives, I propose that the brethren assemble at Oklahoma City, which I am here to advertise, and take an excursion train and make a new pilgrimage in the direction of the Orient.

“Let us load up with curiosities and go in full dress. Let us take Ex-Governor Seay and Governor Renfrow and Frank McMaster and George Gardenshire and Frank Greer and Sam Murphy along as an exhibit.

“Let us introduce whiskey into the Indian country and civilization into Arkansas.

“Let us do all these things next summer by the first through train to Little Rock, and, my word for it the web-footed orientals in the cyprus swamps of Arkansas will never forget to their dying day when Gideon's band went through from Oklahoma.”

Lodges, 27 ; members, 1,085 ; increase, 157.

Henry Rucker (Oklahoma), G. M.

James S. Hunt (Oklahoma), G. S.

OKLAHOMA.

5th Communication, Norman, February 9, 1897.

Henry Rucker, G. M.

The lodges have been kept busy conferring degrees notwithstanding the hard times. The Grand Master says :

“In our own Oklahoma we have known and felt the mighty spirit of a political contest, yet, notwithstanding the extreme interest manifested by all parties in such election, our order has in no wise felt the touch of heated partisanship, and harmony and brotherly love prevail in all our lodges.

“Although we are young as a Grand Lodge, yet I am constrained to believe that we have that spirit prevailing among us that will be content with nothing short of the highest and best that is attainable by human energy. Our lodges number only thirty-one, with an average membership of forty to the lodge, yet I believe that in these same lodges is taught Masonry as pure and exact as in any lodge on earth ; and among our membership is that Masonry that not only inculcates Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, but actually practices them.”

Three new lodges were opened and two others taken over from Texas in consequence of the transfer of Greer County from Texas to Oklahoma.

The Grand Lecturer held six schools of instruction.

Lodges, 34 ; members, 1,340 ; increase, 237.

Albert W. Fisher (Norman), G. M.

James S. Hunt (Stillwater), G. S.

OREGON.

46th Communication, Portland, June 10, 1896.

Morton D. Clifford, G. M.

Owing to the financial stringency, the lodges are doing but very little work. The Grand Lecturer visited all the lodges except three, which were located across the mountains, hun-

dreds of miles from transportation routes. He travelled several thousand miles, one thousand by stage over rough and rugged roads.

The following resolution was adopted :

"Resolved, That we greet the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star in session with fraternal greetings, and congratulate them upon their prosperity, and wish them God speed in their mission of benevolence and charity."

New Zealand was recognized.

Sympathy was extended to our brethren in Cuba, as the lodges there have been closed by the Spanish government.

Applications to shorten the time for the degrees have become too common, and it was recommended that they should not be granted in future except in the most urgent cases.

A new system for the dispensation of Masonic relief was adopted, and rules laid down for its government.

A committee was appointed to report the proper steps to be taken to celebrate the semi-centennial anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Robert Clow has an excellent report on Correspondence, in which Canada for 1895 has a place.

Lodges, 102 ; members, 4,874 ; increase, 71.

Phil. Metchan (Salem), G. M.

James F. Robinson (Eugene), G. S.

PENNSYLVANIA.

At the Quarterly Communication, held March 4, 1896, the following resolutions were adopted :

"Resolved, That all lodges holding \$7000 and under of the four per cent. Masonic Loan be notified by the Grand Secretary, on or before May 1, 1896, that the principal of said loan held by them will be paid in full on September 1, 1896, and interest thereon will cease on and after that date."

"Resolved, That future payments of the principal of the four per cent. Masonic Loan shall be made from time to time, as the funds of the Grand Lodge will permit, commencing with the youngest lodge holding the loan ; notice to be given by the Grand Secretary, under the direction of the committee on finance, in accordance with the resolution of Grand Lodge creating said loan, as adopted December 3, 1890."

Printing the Proceedings costs \$3.53 per page. This includes binding 100 copies in half morocco, and the edition is 7500.

Michael Nisbet, P. G. M. and Grand Secretary died May, 7, 1896. He enjoyed a national reputation among the Fraternity and was highly esteemed and beloved.

Vol. 2 of the Reprint of the Minutes of the Grand Lodge covering the period from 1801 to 1810 was issued in October last and Vol. 3 is nearly ready.

Annual Communication, Philadelphia, Dec. 28, 1896.

Matthias H. Henderson, G. M.

From his very valuable and instructive address we are able to make a few quotations :

"Our Fraternity is unlike any other organization or society. It has traditions, laws, customs and methods of procedure peculiar to itself. It is so old, so firmly established, that it is not obliged to resort to means to perpetuate itself which other more modern societies find it necessary to adopt. Freemasonry does not advertise itself. It seeks no one. It must be sought. Any attempt to force it under the public eye is so repugnant to its traditions as to be prohibited by constitutional enactment. It is not for the public : it is for its own votaries, and the public has no right to know anything about that in which they have no concern. Masonic matters should not be mingled with the gossip of communities, and he who talks about the affairs of his lodge to chance acquaintances in public places has no proper conception of his Masonic obligations. He who prints anything concerning Freemasonry without proper authority violates Article XVII, Section 25, of our Ahiman Rezon.

"My attention was called to an item which appeared in the local news column of a country newspaper, stating that Mr. A B C would that evening be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Lodge No. —. The editor was a Master Mason, and it is hard to believe that so gross an offence was committed ignorantly. I instructed the District Deputy Grand Master to warn him that it must not be repeated.

"Our officers have much to contend with in keeping our over-zealous brethren, who are often imprudent, within the strict line of their duties ; and while some infractions may be attributed to heedlessness and be dismissed with a word of caution, a repetition of them should be visited with severe penalties. Persistently making Masonic affairs material for newsmongers and street gossips is reprehensible enough far punishment. Let us have no more of it. * * *

"The Grand Master of Pennsylvania is more than a presiding officer, and there is no appeal from any of his acts. His decisions have all the force of established law until some of his successors reverse them, and, as they are generally logical and equitable, this is seldom done. * * *

"1. The Ahiman Rezon, in Article XVI, Section 3, says the Past Master's jewel is of silver. That does not mean that it may have decorations of gold or enamel. Silver alone is permissible, and no color should be displayed except the natural color of the metal. * * *

"7. A lodge of Master Masons cannot hold a lodge of sorrow. If a lodge wishes to honor the memory of its deceased members, it can do so by appointing one or more brethren to prepare memorials of them, to be read at a meeting of the lodge, in the presence of Master Masons only. * * *

"11. It is not a qualification for initiation that the applicant be a naturalized citizen. * * *

"14. A lodge cannot give an entertainment, either in the Temple or outside of it, to which persons are invited who are not Masons. If our members desire to give an entertainment to which they can invite their families and friends, they must do it as individuals, securing such place as they think proper, and bearing the entire expense themselves. The lodge funds cannot be used to defray the whole or any part of such expenses. * * *

"Some of the lodges visited had never received a grand visitation, while the others had not had one for many years. Each lodge visited was situated in a different district, and the lodges of that district were notified to meet us at that point, which they generally did, giving us large meetings, and I am entirely safe in saying that we were brought in contact with fully eighty lodges, to whose officers and members we were enabled to impart instruction.

"Two things impressed us very forcibly on this tour. One was the uniform excellence of the work as rehearsed before us. It was the standard work of Pennsylvania accurately and fluently rendered. In no instance was it found necessary to change more than four or five words in the entire ceremony. This was a source of great gratification to us. * * *

"Our finances continue to be in the most satisfactory condition. During the past year \$79,450 of our debt has been paid. The balance amounts to \$411,800, the annual interest charge on which is \$16,472, a reduction of \$3,178. Continuing our figures of last year, we find that the Grand Lodge has paid in the past twenty-two years \$1,058,725 of principal, and \$1,680,019.08 of interest, or a grand total of \$2,738,744.08. It is worthy of remark that in the handling of this vast sum there has never been default of a single day in the payment of either principal or interest, and some of our creditors have with reluctance relinquished investments which yielded them such sure and prompt returns." * * *

"A subject that requires notice is that of residents of Pennsylvania who go to foreign countries, more especially England, Ireland, and Scotland, are there made Masons, and expect to be recognized as such on their return. Some of them do this unwittingly, acting under the bad advice of friends; others do it understandingly, and because the degrees cost less there than here. No person so made can be recognized by our lodges. If they desire to enjoy the privileges of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, they must resign from their foreign lodge, surrendering all allegiance to it and to the Grand Lodge under which it holds, and apply in regular course for initiation and membership, paying the fees required by the by-laws of the lodge to which they apply."

Their Home has now 36 inmates

The "Art Association" is a body of brethren whose object is to decorate the Temple in accordance with the highest Masonic architecture.

The question of recognizing the German Grand Lodges is before a special committee to report during the coming year.

Bro. Michael Arnold, the Chairman of Correspondence, was not able to prepare the usual extended report. He visited the Grand Lodge of England in September, 1896. He says that

the Grand Lodge of England has discontinued the practice of appointing Grand Representatives.

Lodges, 425 ; members, 49,589 ; increase, 1,117.

William J. Kelly (Philadelphia), G. M.

William A. Sinn (Philadelphia), G. S.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

21st Communication, Charlottetown, June 24, 1896.

R. MacNeill. G. M.

The Grand Master is evidently a lover of the wheel, as he introduces his excellent address by a reference to the "Cyclo-meter of Time." Their affairs are all in good shape :

"A manifest progress has been made during the year. In addition to the symbolic degrees and capitular degrees, we have now the Cryptic and Knights Templar, and I trust ere long we shall have a Lodge of Perfection in this jurisdiction, so that it will not be necessary for young and progressive Masons to leave the jurisdiction to obtain those degrees that are now universally acknowledged as legitimate degrees in Masonry."

The following resolution was passed :

Resolved, That no lodge in this jurisdiction shall receive as a joining or affiliate member, any person who has principal or clerk is engaged in the manufacture or the sale of spirituous or malt liquors, excepting for medicinal purposes."

Lodges, 12 ; members, 515 ; increase, 6.

John L. Thomas (Charlottetown), G. M.

Neil MacKelvie (Summerside), G. S.

QUEBEC.

27th Communication, Montreal, January 27, 1897.

Frederick Massey, G. M.

He reports the year has been almost uneventful so far as the Grand Lodge is concerned, but among the lodges it has been exceedingly interesting and progressive. More and more is being done in the practice of Charity. Their new Constitution is characterized as "possibly the most complete and carefully constructed Constitution in existence. The Grand Master made a number of official visits and opened a new lodge at Valleyfield.

The Grand Lodge ordered an address to the Queen upon the completion of sixty years of her beneficent rule over the British Empire.

Fraternal telegrams were exchanged with the Grand Chapter of Canada, then in session in Toronto.

The Constitution is to be published in French as soon as the finances will permit.

Bro. E. T. D. Chambers presented another of his excellent reports on Correspondence, and he was rewarded for his many services to Masonry by being elected to the highest position in the gift of the Craft. We congratulate him heartily on his well-deserved promotion. In his review of Maryland he has the following comments on the exercise of the Grand Master's prerogative of making a Mason at sight :

"Perhaps some good purpose is served by this sort of thing that could not be obtained by the regular method of making Masons, but it does not at present appear to us what it can be, though the occasional exercise of something that must feel to Republican dignity very consciously like occupying the throne of despotic and unlimited monarchy is no doubt a very agreeable diversion even to professed lovers of democracy.

"In the days of the seigniorial tenure of lands in the Province of Quebec, the Seigneur, or lord of the manor, possessed a number of very remarkable rights, similar to those exercised centuries ago in France. These included the *Droit de Jambage* or *Prelibation*, and to borrow an expression of my literary friend, Sir James M. LeMoine, 'as I do not care to be too explicit in describing it, it will suffice to say that it had for its object, as many pretend, to confer on the lord of the manor the same rights which some royal Lotharios in France claimed in those marriage contracts '*ou le Roi a signe.*' That this right—high prerogative, if you prefer—which might have suited old King Solomon, appears in charters and grants there can be no doubt.' There is no record that the right was ever exercised here in Canada, but it is related, that jealousy for the maintenance of the prerogative, led some Canadian Seigniors, in years gone by, to enter the bridal chamber and touch the nuptial couch with the seigniorial knee. What sticklers they would have made, if Masons, for the prerogatives of Grand Masters?"

Lodges, 59 ; members, 3,519 ; decrease, 11.

E. T. D. Chambers (Quebec), G. M.

J. H. Isaacson (Montreal), G. S.

RHODE ISLAND.

105th Communication, Providence, May 18, 1896.

Edward P. Lowden, G. M.

A fire in March destroyed their Masonic Temple, with all their property, regalia, portraits of Past Grand Masters and Library. The records were fortunately saved.

The lodges are reported to be in good condition.

The transactions were entirely local.

Lodges, 39 ; members, 4890 : increase, 219.

Wm. H. Crawly, (Warren), G. M.

Edwin Baker, (Providence), G. S.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

120th Communication, Charleston, Dec. 8, 1896.

Claude E. Sawyer, G. M.

The condition of the Craft in this jurisdiction is not as satisfactory as could be desired. The Grand Master visited many lodges and says :

And it matters not how well they were working nor how prosperous they were, not one was working strictly according to the ritual. In every lodge there are some well informed brethren, and in many lodges there are efficient officers and enthusiastic Masons, but in very few are there a sufficient number to even do so much as to correctly open and close the lodge. Few take the trouble to read the Constitution, and some do not even seem to know that the proceedings of the Grand Lodge are printed. We may sit here for days and adopt resolutions, but how we are to enforce them or even induce members to become cognizent of their existence is one of the gravest problems before us and one which I wish you to solve at this Communication."

One of the suggestions of the Grand Master is a decided novelty, but it is, we fear, entirely impracticable :

"In anxiously looking for the cause of so many unaffiliated Masons it has occurred to my mind that one reason is our system of taxation, which is contrary to that of all governments and churches. Under our system the poorest member of the lodge is required to pay the same amount for the support of the order as the richest.

"The government taxes according to the valuation of the property owned. Might we not adopt some such system? We might fix a minimum that all should pay, similar to a poll tax, and then have each man assessed according to his ability to pay. The three, four or five dollars a year is quite an item to the clerk or artisan who works for forty or fifty dollars a month, while it is never felt by his more fortunate brother, whose salary is one hundred a month or perhaps several thousand a year. I have had good, true masons come to me and tell me they were not able to pay; that they had families to support and were working for a few dollars a month, and many of them with large families of children, and whose expenses keep up with their wages so closely that they never felt that they had the money to spare to pay their dues. Now a dollar a year to these men could be paid without pinching, and their more fortunate brethren ought not object to paying in proportion to their ability."

Bro. F. E. Harrison gives the causes of their want of progress and suggests a remedy :

"My experience as District Deputy has convinced me that Masonry is not as prosperous in the first district as it ought to be. The little I have done seems only to reveal the magnitude of the work to be accomplished. The principal causes of this state of affairs, in my judgment, are—(First). The lukewarmness of the membership due mainly to ignorance. (Second). The growth all over the district of so-called benevolent or fraternal orders which claim to present other features or attractions, such as sick benefits, life and accident insurance, and even tombstones for the dead. (Third). The inefficiency

of many of the officers of lodges, rendering the work dull and uninteresting, or else so perverting it that its beauty and symbolical meaning are entirely destroyed.

"Now for the remedy. The second of the causes of Masonic depression, seems at first beyond our reach or influence—and a great many of the brethren are enthusiastic members of other orders. Still as Masons we are not to regard the welfare or existence of other orders at all, but rather, we should at all times, maintain the pre-eminence of Masonry, and claim for it the rank and dignity to which it is justly entitled. Our lodge rooms should not be rented to or shared with other societies, for the ancient and honorable order is thereby placed on the same level, and the secrets of Masonry might not at all times be securely guarded. The first and third causes which have been mentioned, viz.: Lukewarm membership and inefficient officers, demand our immediate and earnest consideration. They are to be remedied by increasing the number of Masonic districts, so that each will contain only ten or twelve lodges. Each district will occupy a territory sufficiently small to enable the District Deputy to reach any lodge in a short time, and he can visit it at its regular communication. He can thereby see the lodge in its normal state, correct its errors and enlighten it as to any irregularity which may have crept in. Being near at hand the District Deputy can easily visit each lodge several times during the year, note its progress, fire the zeal of old members and awaken that of new ones, and thus aid materially in dispelling the gloom of obscurity that threatens our beloved order. The frequent visits of a District Deputy will vitalize the energies of any lodge, quicken its preceptions and enlarge its usefulness."

A uniform Code of By-laws was adopted to be used by all lodges compulsorily, but objection was taken to the amendment required to the Constitution so as to bring the Code into force, and the matter was laid over till next year.

The number of Districts was increased from 10 to 18.

New Zealand was recognized.

It was decided :

"That where a brother is a Knight of Pythias and had requested to be buried with Masonic honors, he is entitled so to be buried, although the Knights of Pythias propose to perform their ceremonies—provided, however, that the Masonic ceremonies shall be performed after the other ceremonies are over ; the Masons taking charge of the body last of all and not mingling with the other bodies."

The Grand Secretary reports on Correspondence and notices Canada for 1896.

Lodges, 181 ; members, 5,725 ; loss, 177.

Jacob T. Barron (Columbia), G. M.

Charles Inglesby (Charleston), G. S.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

22nd Communication, Huron, June 9, 1896.

Frederic H. Files, G. M.

The Grand Master had a busy year. The duties of the office required more time and thought than he had anticipated. He issued dispensations for two new lodges.

The appropriation for the Grand Lecturer was so small that he was unable to visit all the bodies asking for his services. He visited 16, and the interest manifested was satisfactory to him.

New Zealand was recognized.

The following report was adopted :

"There have been no resolutions referred to this committee for our consideration, except that part of the Grand Master's Address relating to 'Masonic Charity' and the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, which makes it obligatory upon the Grand Lodge to provide for the relief of subordinate lodge members.

"While your committee is satisfied that this proposition was actuated by pure and honest motives on the part of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, earnestly endeavoring to best promote the greatest efficiency of our cardinal tenet, 'to relieve the distressed,' still, we believe the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in advocating its adoption, is diverging from the ancient and well established usages of the fraternity.

"We are proud of our order and the privilege of belonging to the great brotherhood. We love it for its antiquity and traditions. We honor it for its charity toward all mankind, and because it gives freely, voluntarily and almost secretly. We are proud of our beloved order because no *fixed* sum set aside for 'relief' or 'sick benefits' to attract the avaricious candidate to knock at our door with the assurance of being 'helped' as if he were joining a 'mutual benefit association.'

"By reading the reports from sister jurisdiction relating to the magnificent homes built for their indigent brethren, their widows and orphans, and the large sums set aside and disbursed each year for the relief of their distressed, fully confirms your committee that our fraternity need not publish to the world anything to advertise it as a charitable institution, and for these reasons we recommend that the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin be not concurred in by our Grand Lodge.

"Your committee compliments our M. W. Grand Master in his remarks relating to the above proposition, and accept them as our own, and we recommend that the resolution drafted some years ago and made a part of this proposition be and is hereby rescinded. We fully believe that every Masonic lodge and brother realize and know their Masonic duties too well to necessitate the calling of their attention to them by publishing a lot of fixed and arbitrary laws."

We also quote from the Jurisprudence Committee :

"Though the dispensations granted for conferring degrees out of time may have been justified in every instance, yet your committee cannot as a rule admit, that leaving the State or jurisdiction permanently, is in the vast majority of cases sufficient ground for the exercise of the dispensing powers of the M. W. Grand Master. It is too often the case that petitions for the degrees in Masonry, their subsequent reception and possession, are deemed desirable only then,

when the applicant is about to change his residence, though he may have lived for years under the shadow of the walls of the lodge room."

The state of the finances would not permit of any appropriation for the Grand Lecturer.

Bro. William Blatt reports on Correspondence. In his introduction he says :

" The proposition of the M. W. Grand of Mississippi for an inter-jurisdictional agreement upon the subject of rejected and partly finished Masonic material of particular lodges has been a prominent feature during the year in Grand Lodge legislation, and discussion by writers on correspondence and committees on jurisprudence.

The utter failure of the acceptance of any such proposal, must prove the fallacy of the doctrine of 'perpetual jurisdiction.' We have failed to note by those who most strenuously support the doctrine, an attempt to foist it upon the craft as an 'ancient landmark.' None have of late tortured the language, that a Master should not complete work begun by another, into an excuse for the existence of the doctrine. The most reasonable and honorable cause for its existence and maintenance in some jurisdictions is its existence there for a very long period of time. To these we reply by asking the questions, whence did the doctrine originate? Does it obtain in the Grand Lodge of England? Has it ever been recognized by that Grand Lodge? Or, is the child in this instance its material mother? While we do not claim majorities to be always right, yet the result of inquiry upon the subject by the Grand Master of Illinois showed that out of forty-five Grand Lodges replying to the question, twenty-nine do not, and sixteen do recognize the doctrine. The older Grand Lodges on this continent are arrayed against each other upon the subject equally with the younger ones. In two instances, Illinois being one, able Grand Masters recommended a change, basing their views upon most reasonable grounds. The jurisprudence committee in both cases shielded its opposition to a change behind the age of the law in their particular jurisdiction. We simply desire in the foregoing to defend the positions of our own Grand Lodge in the premises. We are not after converts. We believe a very little comity on the part of 'hard-shelled' brethren would be all that is necessary to destroy the ill effects, here and there, of this conflict in Masonic jurisprudence. An acknowledgment of the undenied doctrine that one made a Mason in the regularly constituted lodge of such, is and remains a Mason until deprived of the same by due process of Masonic law, would be another factor in the peaceful maintainance of diverse rules upon the subject.

"An additional and potent reason for the fraternal treatment of cases arising out of a diversity of the law, would be a recognition of every Grand Lodge and its Grand Master of the fact that supremacy in legislation and practice, barring unchangeable principles and land marks, is an established and fundamental principle of Grand Lodge sovereignty."

Lodges, 93 ; members, 4,243 ; decrease, 11.

James Lewis (Candon), G. M.

George A. Pettigrew (Flandreau), G. S.

TENNESSEE.

83rd Communication, Nashville, January 27, 1897.

Philip N. Matlock, G. M.

Masonry is elevating the moral standard of its members and peace prevails. The tendency of the fraternity is to require Masons to live more in accordance with Masonic teaching. The Grand Master's greatest pleasure was in visiting the lodges. On their Home, he says :

"Within a few miles of this beautiful city stands the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, an enterprise in which every Mason in Tennessee should take great pride and manifest an enthusiastic interest. There are about one hundred inmates, consisting of widows and children, and applications have been made for quite a number more. Should we not open our ears to the cry of distress and assist them to the best of our ability? God grant that a fund sufficient to feed and clothe these widows and orphans may be placed in the hands of the managers of the Home."

Their gallery of portraits of Past Grand Masters is now complete.

The report of the "Custodians of the work and lectures" shows that good work has been cheaply done during the year.

"From the report of these lecturers your board of custodians at its annual meeting, held in advance of this communication, have prepared the following general report of the work of the year: As a summary, we find that 230 visits have been made, occupying 348 days, in which 193 lodges have received instruction, at a cost to the Grand Lodge of probably less than thirty cents for each chartered lodge. For the amount of work done, and its beneficial results, this is probably the most economical system of visitation and lectures that has ever been devised, and the credit thereof, with its beneficial results, is in the main due to the earnest devotion, zeal and efficiency of the lecturers in their respective districts."

The same Board of Custodians conferred the first and second degrees on actual candidates in the Grand Lodge.

An addition of 1000 copies of their Code of Masonic Law was published at a cost of \$447.

The Grand Lodges of New Zealand, Victoria and Oklahoma were recognized.

The following report was adopted :

"BRETHREN—Your committee on jurisprudence, having considered the communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine in behalf of uniform time regulation in the United States in the matter of jurisdiction over rejected material, beg leave to submit the following :

"*Resolved*, 1. That this Grand Lodge is in sympathy with the purpose and spirit of this movement, and will rejoice to see any probable cause of discord among Grand Lodges of the United States removed.

"2. That to this end this Grand Lodge would favorably consider a regulation requiring three years' probation of a candidate rejected in any other Grand Jurisdiction."

A plan was adopted for the management of the Home, and fifty cents of the one dollar capita tax is to be used exclusively for the Home. The title of the Home is now vested in the Grand Lodge. It is valued at \$40,000, and is absolutely free from debt.

They have in Tennessee a Masonic Veteran Association, which is thus described :

"This association was organized in this State, January 29, 1894, with forty-three members.

"Its object is to perpetuate existing and form new friendships; to fructify the zeal and devotion of the brethren; to set an example of devotion to Freemasonry; to compile and preserve the history of its members, and pay the last tribute of respect to those who have died.

"It is composed of such members of Masonic lodges as are in good and regular standing, and who have been active Freemasons during twenty-one years or more. The admission fee is five dollars, but 'no dues' is an immovable landmark.

"The annual assembly occurs on the evening of the first day of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, and begins promptly at 6 o'clock. Immediately after the business is disposed of, the members dine together, or so many of them as desire to do so, paying to the steward the fixed charge for said dinner *per capita*, not to exceed one dollar."

Bro. George H. Morgan has an excellent report on Correspondence. He reviews Canada for 1896, and compliments Grand Master White on his business-like address. He quotes the conclusion of the report of the Board on the Condition of Masonry, and then says :

"Well said, brethren. If we were not an American, we'd want to be a Canuck.

"Henry Robertson, P. G. M., gives us a brief, but first-class report on correspondence. We commend the sentiment contained in the introductory to the brethren in Tennessee. He says :

"A careful perusal of this report will, we believe, enable our officers and members to be better qualified for the performance of their duties as officers and Masons, to inspire them with renewed zeal and energy; and to make themselves more fully acquainted with the numerous phases of the institution, the solidity of its doctrines, and the exceeding beauty of its tenets and professions.

"We would add, it gives us a grander idea of the universality of Masonry to learn, through the report on correspondence (and we can learn it no where else unless we have time to read it up in a Masonic library)—a grander idea of the hold that our eternal principles have upon humanity, and a more clear insight into the wonderful influence that our order exerts throughout the world."

Lodges, 425; members, 17,682; loss, 84.

Archibald N. Sloan (Chattanooga), G. M.

John B. Garrett (Nashville), G. S.

TEXAS.

61st Communication. Houston, Dec. 1, 1896.

B. R. Abernethy, G. M.

We regret to learn of the death of Bro. Robert Brewster. He was 84 years of age, and had been prominently connected with Texan Masonry for about forty years. "He was one of whom Masonry may justly be proud"

The Grand Master issued dispensations for twelve new lodges. On the state of the Craft, he says :

"Though this has been a year of short crops and financial stringency, and a feeling of general distrust has filled the commercial world; though poverty has pinched many brethren who have heretofore been used to the necessities and many of the luxuries of life; and though we have had to pass through the excitements and distractions of a presidential election, wherein mighty conflicting interests were at stake, brother being pitted against brother, each contending for the mastery; yet, thanks to the Almighty Maker and Ruler of us all, whose mighty hand directs the storm, yet gently breaks the sparrow's fall, we have been free from famine, pestilence and war; and through it all, and in spite of it all, Masonry has prospered and dispensed good."

We commend the following :

"A number of applications from different lodges have been received, asking dispensations to perform post-burial service over the graves of deceased brethren, and to hold public lodges of sorrow. Acting in accordance with my own view in regard to right and propriety, and with the usage established by my predecessors and approved by this Grand Lodge, in each case the dispensation was refused.

"Several lodges applied for dispensations to confer the degrees on candidates before the lapse of the constitutional limit time. No great urgency being apparent in either case, the applications were severally refused. In this connection, I desire to express the opinion that this 'letting down the bars' to the approach to Masonry is entirely too common; and that the 'ever restless spirit of innovation' is nowhere more openly manifest than in this desire to permit candidates for Masonic honors to avoid the delays and difficulties of the prescribed paths, and to permit them to slip in at the back door. The old ways may be tedious and difficult, but they are safe and sure."

They have 62 District Deputies, a body of worthy men and intelligent Masons, whose faithful performance of duty greatly assisted the Grand Master.

A number of locations were offered for the new Masonic Home, and one near Galveston was approved by the Directors, but the decision was put off for another year. The Home fund is now \$106,876.75.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma was recognized, and two Texan lodges in that territory were transferred to the new body.

Bro. Thomas M. Matthews presented another of his interesting and valuable reports. On the use of ciphers, he says :

" If the printing cipher rituals be not a violation of an ancient (albeit unwritten) landmark, then we are most egregiously mistaken, have ourselves been improperly taught, and improperly taught others. Nor is this all—no, not by a jug full. If those who make these cipher rituals and those who, *particeps criminis*, authorize them, have taken the obligations that we have, and as Freemasonry is universal, we presume they have, in all candor we ask : How can they stand aught else than perjured before God and their brethren ? And in our humble opinion he who uses, aids or abets it in any way, is none the less guilty. This, too, is doubly so, seeing that the obligation so taken and violated and thrown aside, is not an enforced, but a voluntary one. In this connection we can but recall the words of our Scotia brother of the long ago as applicable and appropriate—

" The fear o' hell's the hangman's whip
To hold the wretch in order,
But where you feel your honor grip
Let that aye be your border."

In his notice for Canada for 1896 we find the following :

" The reports of the several committees are full and thorough, and afford unquestionable evidence that our brethren up there believe in doing what they do, well. Had we time and space we would like to take these reports up *seriatim* and extract from them for the benefit of our home readers, but both are too limited now to permit our doing so."

Lodges, 581 ; members, 27,662 ; increase, 821.

A. B. Watkins (Athens), G. M.

John Watson (Houston), G. S.

UTAH.

26th Communication, Salt Lake City, January 19, 1897.

William T. Dalby, G. M.

On the condition of the Craft he says :

" The growth of our Institution is, as would naturally be expected, dependent to a large degree if not entirely, upon the growth and progressive condition of the country. They both prosper together as well as feel alike the depression of hard times. The stagnation of business that has been sorely felt throughout every section of our country has also been felt by business concerns of all classes in the young State of Utah. In spite of these hard times and general depression, however, the records show an increase of twenty-five in membership over that of last year. Quite a number of "drones in the hive" have been weeded out, leaving a zealous residue in a prosperous condition, and among whom the greatest of peace and harmony prevails."

The Grand Master visited all the lodges in the jurisdiction. With one or two exceptions, the work was highly creditable and it was a great pleasure to him to note the interest and zeal

taken by the brethren and the fraternal spirit everywhere prevailing.

The following report was adopted :

“PROPOSITION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF WISCONSIN.—Your Committee begs leave to report on the Communication from the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin that we reiterate the sentiments expressed by our Grand Master and will continue to dispense true Masonic charity wherever needed to the extent of our ability, regardless of the ability or disposition of the Lodge to which the brother may belong, to reimburse us for our outlay.

“PROPOSITION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.—Your Committee begs leave to report on that portion of the Grand Master's address referring to the Communication received by him as representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine; that we see no reason for deviating from the established rule made by this Grand Lodge that one year's residence within this Jurisdiction entitles a profane to petition for the degrees; and the further protection that he shall state in his petition whether or no he has been rejected within six months, affords ample safeguard against unworthy applicants.”

The Grand Lodge decided not to prohibit dancing in Masonic Halls.

All Past Masters have individual votes in Grand Lodge.

A revised Constitution was adopted.

This volume is beautifully embellished with portraits of all their Past Grand Masters, and numerous photographs of their various Masonic Halls. The new hall lately dedicated at Salt Lake City is one of which they are justly proud.

The Grand Secretary reports on Correspondence and reviews Canada for 1896.

Lodges, 9 ; members, 763 ; increase, 25.

Abram D. Gash (Provo), G. M.

Christopher Diehl (Salt Lake City), G. S.

VERMONT.

103rd Communication, Burlington, June 10, 1896.

Kittridge Haskins, G. M.

On the state of the Craft he says :

“I am pleased to report that this grand jurisdiction is at peace with the whole world. Nothing has occurred to disturb that harmony and brotherly affection which has heretofore existed between us and other grand jurisdictions, and which is essential to the well being of our beloved order. At home, nothing has occurred to mar the beauty and symmetry of the Masonic edifice which has been erected in the hearts of all true and loyal brethren. I am not aware that any brother has a grievance to be submitted for your consideration at this session. This is evidence of the excellent discipline which prevails, and of the high standard to which masonry has attained in this jurisdiction. The returns made by the subordinate bodies show an

increase in membership that is encouraging. And upon the whole, I have reason to believe that the work of conferring the degrees was never better or more impressively rendered than now; and that there is existing among the brethren an honest rivalry as to 'who best can work and best agree.' It behooves us all to strive to ever keep it so."

The following very sensible report on the publication of Masonic news was adopted :

"That while masonry is a secret institution, its teachings and principles are an open book to the world.

"We do not commend any endorsement or parade of our doings, nor would we, if we could, prevent a fair presentation of news items.

"It seems to your committee, that the whole matter should be left to the sound judgment and wise discretion of the members of the Grand Lodge, and if this is abused, some action will be taken to correct the evil, until that time, no action is called for."

Bro. Marsh O. Perkins submitted an extensive and valuable review (of 165 pages), of the Proceedings of 52 Grand Lodges, including Canada for 1895.

Lodges, 101 ; members, 9694 ; increase, 196.

Kitredge Haskins (Brattleboro), G. M.

Warren G. Reynolds (Burlington), G. S.

VIRGINIA.

119th Communication, Richmond, Dec. 1, 1896.

J. P. Fitzgerald, G. M.

The death is announced of Bro. George W. Dame, D. D., aged 83, who was Grand Chaplain for 32 years.

Five new lodges were opened. The Grand Master was not called upon for any important decision. His address concludes with an eloquent passage, well worthy of preservation.

"I have read, with ever-increasing interest, as from time to time they have been received, the proceedings of the Grand Lodges with which we are in friendly and fraternal correspondence. I have noted with satisfaction the means and methods which are being adopted to carry onward and upward the beneficent work in which we are engaged. I rejoice in the evidence thus furnished, that everywhere the stakes are being strengthened and the cords are being lengthened, and I have been confirmed in the belief which I have entertained since I first knelt at her altar, that Freemasonry is a potent factor in the growth and in the development of civilization, and in the amelioration of the condition of mankind.

"Masonry in this work is silent, and its influence is occult. It operates upon the heart, and its effects are manifested in the life of the individual. Because it makes no display, and is unostentatious in its surroundings, some, who are ignorant of its aims, its objects and its teachings, deny its claims and others malign and defame it. They may as well deny the existence and the power of that power in the physical world by which the ocean's tide is made to ebb and flow, which leads each billow at the appointed time to its appointed place

along the shore, and which, binding them all in one, compels the sea to bear to their destinations the navies of the world. Or they may as well deny that there runs along their coasts, within and of the sea, but having characteristics differing from it, that mighty stream which tempers many leagues away the waters through which it flows and gives to bordering lands their flowers and their fruits. The powers and forces of the physical world will one day have expended their strength; but when there shall be no more sea; when the sun shall lay aside his diadem of fire; when Saturn shall unbind his girdle of light; when Orion shall with his gleaming sword no longer make his stately march across the heavens; when the Pleiades shall unwind the silver threads which bind their golden hair; and when star after star shall have gone out in darkness and in gloom, then the influence of Masonry will still be felt, and the principles and truths which it, by allegory, symbol, sign and emblem, impresses upon the hearts and lives of its votaries will shine on in all their pristine splendor and gleam with undying radiance through all the ages—coeval with eternity, coinfinite with immensity—because they are emanations from the mind of God, breathed by Him into the soul of man."

The following motion was lost:

"*Resolved*, That the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge be requested to consider the propriety of dispensing with the *Banquet* given each night in Grand Lodge, or in some way curtail its expenses so as to be able to pay the *travelling expenses* of at least *one delegate* from each lodge in the state, thus securing better representation from all the lodges, and making its Grand Communications more instructive, and thereby the better to secure the good of Masonry in the state."

Virginia does not claim any perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates, and therefore declined to adopt the Maine proposition.

The Wisconsin relief proposition was also declined.

Reports were received from 45 out of the 50 districts. They show the Craft to be active and earnestly endeavoring to become proficient in the work.

Bro. W. F. Drinkhard presented an excellent report on Correspondence. Our Proceedings for 1894, 1895 and 1896 are fraternally noticed. Bro. Drinkard thinks that a "Code of Laws" should be substituted for the "Constitution," apparently for the reason that the Constitution is made to be observed, while a Code might be got over in some way, but it seems to us that a Constitution is really nothing more nor less than a Code of Laws. Nor is it a "modern innovation," as it is coeval with the earliest Grand Lodge:

"He also, as do so many Grand Masters, calls attention to the imperfections of their Constitution, but recommends caution as to its amendment. If his prerogative were recognized, and a simple methodical digest of Grand Lodge laws substituted for this modern innovation, could not he, whenever he found special cases arising to which it did not well apply, by his dispensation overcome the trouble?"

Would it not be better to let the Code of Laws be his guide and counsellor and his useful servant in carrying out the purposes of the Grand Lodge than to make it a constitution from which he cannot escape, even when to follow its provisions absurdly prevents him from accomplishing those purposes? Ought not he to be *Grand Master of Masons in Canada*, and as such, captain of the ship instead of a mere executive officer afraid to act in emergencies for fear of violating an organic law made before the emergency arose?"

They allow petitions for initiation to be withdrawn by unanimous consent of the lodge.

On the incorporation of the lodges, he says :

"The laws of the Grand Lodge of Virginia forbid any lodge to be incorporated, although many, if not most of them, hold property by their trustees appointed by court. Much has been said on this subject in former years, but it would only seem necessary to call attention to the possibility that some suspended or expelled member will one of these days bring suit for damages and defamation of character against some incorporated lodge, and they will be required to produce their records in court and the members be required to testify as to all that took place in the lodge at the trial, or be in contempt of court. Or some expelled mason will claim his share of incorporated property, or get a mandamus to compel the 'independent corporate body' to restore him to membership on account of property rights. Better change that custom, brethren, before the trouble arises."

In his notice of Florida, we find the following :

"The case of Brother Pedro Duarte, an Episcopal minister and a member of Libertad Lodge, of Matanzas, Cuba, is interesting and instructive. It seems that after Brother Duarte left Cuba, with the highest recommendations from his Lodge, there was issued a decree of the Spanish Government closing the Lodges of the island and declaring Masonry unlawful. As he had no dimit he could not, under the law of the Grand Lodge of Florida, or for that matter, of many other jurisdictions, join any Lodge, and as his own was extinct he was left in a helpless and anomalous position. This illustrates one of the beauties of our plan of paying no attention whatever to official dimitts or other documents, and allowing membership in any and every Lodge in Virginia at the same time. If Brother Duarte will move to Virginia, and prove himself the worthy Mason he seems to be, he will find all these stumbling blocks have no existence with us. We recognize the universality of Masonry and consider mere Lodge membership a minor matter."

And on the Mexican question :

"Of course we can only give the views of this committee, but it is safe to say that Virginia will never consent to recognize anything by any name as a Grand Lodge unless it be a Sovereign Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, free from all stain or taint of heresy to our Rite and only those Grand Lodges which give the Holy Bible the first place on their altars. As for the woman question, it is not, from our standpoint, even debatable. We express no opinion as to what the Grand Lodge may see fit to do as to withdrawing its recognition from those Grand Lodges which see fit to enter into treaties and exchange visits with such bodies as the *Gran Dieta Simbolica*."

Lodges, 251 ; members, 12,652 ; increase, 80.

A. R. Courtney (Richmond), G. M.

George W. Carrington (Richmond), G. S.

WASHINGTON.

39th Communication, Seattle, June 9, 1896.

William W. Witherspoon, G. M.

The Grand Master reports four new lodges. He refused all requests for dispensations to attend church on Sunday clothed as Masons. On the condition of Masonry, he says :

" I am happy to state that our relations with all other Grand Lodges in communication with us remain harmonious, and that nothing has occurred in the past year to disturb this good fellowship. In our own jurisdiction I am pleased to state that with few exceptions peace and harmony prevail. The returns from our subordinate lodges do not show a large increase in membership but this is due to the fact that greater care is being exercised in the selection of material, and to the stringency of the financial situation which has prevailed, but which happily seems to be nearing an end ; and with returning prosperity we can confidently look forward to a healthy growth in the future."

From far-off Alaska comes the tidings that the brethren there, although no lodge, are still mindful of their duties as Masons, and are imbued with the spirit of fraternity.

" June 30, 1895, I received the following letter from Brother E. O. Sylvester, of Juneau, Alaska, which I submit, with my reply :

" Juneau, Alaska, June 17, 1895. Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Washington, F. & A. M., Olympia, Washington : Dear Sir and Brother.—At a meeting of several members of the craft this evening, the discussion of some Masonic questions came up, among which was one as to what was proper to be done regarding the funeral of a brother here. Having no lodge, and sometimes no clergyman, we have, on several occasions, assembled as Masons, though never as a lodge, and with white aprons and gloves, one bearing an open bible and two carrying crossed rods, have escorted the remains of a departed brother to his last resting place, and there one of us has read the burial service from the ritual, and each has cast a sprig of acacia into the open grave. The grand honors have always been omitted. After the burial we have marched back to our place of meeting and then quietly dispersed. Some of the brothers feel that we have never done anything contrary to the principles of Masonic government, while a few think we ought not to attend a funeral in a body as Masons. Possibly our sympathy has swerved our judgment, but it has seemed almost cruel to deny funeral services to the dead, and if we have erred at all, it has been on the side of brotherly tenderness. You understand the situation. Will you kindly tell us just what we should do in these cases and what we should leave undone? I am, most fraternally, E. O. Sylvester.

" Reply : E. O. Sylvester, Juneau, Alaska : Dear Sir and Brother,—Replying to yours of 17th June, would say, that as Alaska is an open jurisdiction I have no authoritative right or power to decide the matters referred to me by you. Therefore, what I shall say will be only my individual opinion, and not as Grand Master. Still, if my advice

can be of any assistance to you, you are welcome to it. In the first place, it does not strike me that you have violated either the letter or spirit of Masonry—certainly not the spirit. However it might be well to omit the aprons in procession or in public places (except when a lodge is regularly convened), as it tends to hold out to the world that you are thereby claiming to be an authorized lodge. Under the circumstances it seems a graceful and proper thing for Masons, situated as you are, to attend the funeral of a deceased brother in a body, so long as you do not give any cause for criticism; that is, by holding yourselves out as a regularly constituted Masonic body. Further, I do not see any objection to forming as you have described and performing ceremonies as you have indicated, omitting the Masonic clothing (the apron). If I can be of any further service to you I shall be only too glad to serve you. Fraternally yours, Wm. W. Witherspoon, Grand Master."

A large number of amendments were made to the Constitution and By laws. The word "subordinate" as applied to lodges was correctly abolished:

"At several places in our law the adjective 'subordinate' occurs in connection with the word 'Lodge.' The use of this word in this connection is not ancient, but is borrowed from the vocabulary of younger societies. It has been seriously questioned whether the adjective is an apt or honorable one to apply to so ancient or dignified an institution as a Masonic Lodge. The two bodies known to Ancient Craft Masonry are not Grand and subordinate lodges, but are Grand Lodges and lodges. Whatever may be thought of the propriety of the use of the word under other circumstances, we are prepared to state that there is no clause or phrase anywhere in the laws of this Grand Lodge which is made more clear or explicit by the presence in it of this word."

Bro. John Arthur delivered an eloquent oration on the Mission of Masonry, from which we make the following extract:

"Is the mission of Masonry accomplished? Is the triumph of its principles so complete that it need henceforth concern itself only with its own members? Has the order entered upon a period of dry rot?

"What is the status of civil and religious liberty in Europe, where the Masonic revival occurred as a protest against religious persecution? Do we not see in Protestant Germany an extensive and furious persecution of our Israelitish brethren, stimulated and encouraged in the very highest quarters? Do we not see the same in Catholic Austria, where a violent anti-Jewish agitator has, three times in succession, been elected mayor of Vienna, and where even a Rothschild has never been presented at Court? And crossing over into Greek-church, Russia, do we not find the same wave of violent bigotry overwhelming the compatriots of Spinoza and Lessing, of Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer, of Rubinstein and Montefiore?

"I would fain name one land in which the principles of Freemasonry had found such deep lodgment and such general recognition that this recrudescence of barbarism, of which I have mentioned a few examples in Europe, could not possibly take place in its body politic; and of all lands I should prefer to say this of our own child of Masonry, the Republic of the United States of America. Candor

forbids me to enjoy this pleasure. Truth compels me to say to you that barbarism is not extinct even in this republic, and that we behold here, at the close of the nineteenth century, a widespread, unprovoked and insensate movement against the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity, and in particular against the religious, social, civil and political rights of the co-religionists of La Fayette and Rochambeau, of Pulaski and Carroll, of Sheridan and Rosecrans.

"So long as these things are possible in Europe and America, so long will the mission of Masonry remain unfulfilled. This white race of ours is not yet wholly civilized; until it is so, there will be need of a Masonic Lodge in every community, and that lodge should make itself so felt as a power for good, that it will in time liberalize the whole lump of humanity around it, and thus materially hasten the day

"That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that."

Then, and not till then, will the mission of Masonry have been accomplished."

The Wisconsin relief proposition was rejected.

One of the most interesting incidents of the Grand Communication occurred just before its close, in the presentation to the Grand Lodge by the Grand Secretary of a twenty-four inch gauge, made of the native fir of Washington, and used in the Initiation of the first Entered Apprentice in the first lodge in the Territory of Washington, on February 5, 1853. Benjamin Franklin Yantis was the subject, and after him it performed a like service in the initiation of Colonel Benjamin Franklin Shaw, of Vancouver, Wash. It excited much interested curiosity among the brethren, and was regarded as a precious survival of the primitive days on Puget Sound.

A very able and interesting report on Correspondence was presented by Bros. Thomas M. Reed and William H. Upton. Canada for 1895 receives fraternal mention. On the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Mexico, Bro. Upton says:

"In our opinion, little weight should be attached to the recognitions already accorded; that of Texas was given upon impulse and without proper investigation; that of North Dakota without due investigation; that of New York upon misinformation; while Missouri says that in her unfortunate abandonment of Toltec Lodge she did not intend to recognize the Gran Dieta.

"Before a body can with propriety, be recognized as a grand body in Masonry, at least five questions must be answered, the fourth in the negative and all the others in the affirmative, viz.:

1. Are its members in possession of the secrets of Masonry?
2. Are their lodges regular, or at least non-clandestine?
3. Are they maintaining the landmarks of Masonry?
4. Is there any reason to fear they will not continue to do so?
5. Was their grand body organized regularly?

"As to the Gran Dieta, Kansas answers the first and last questions in the affirmative, and we concur. To the third she replies: 'Yes, just at

present.' She answers the fourth in the negative, but states facts which force us to disagree with her. It is in this question that our own objections to the Gran Dieta chiefly rest. But the second question, which the Kansas committee neither answered nor investigated, is one which cannot be answered in the affirmative without the revision of ideas now very generally entertained by American Masons, and which many of very great intelligence have been accustomed to accept as axioms. To put it plainly and baldly, that question cannot be answered in the affirmative without first conceding that the primitive right of a competent number of Masons to assemble and work as a lodge, without permission from any external source whatsoever, has survived the long attempt of Grand Lodges to exterminate it. We are aware that many will cry out for a middle ground, will claim that Mexican lodges, like those in many other countries, were authorized mediately or immediately by supreme councils of the various rites which have flourished in different times and countries. But this is no answer and there is no middle ground. For, whence came those Rites and those Supreme Councils? They all owe their origin, directly or indirectly, to the fiat of Master Masons acting on no other authority than their own inherent right; and to say that certain Master Masons in Charleston, in 1801, for instance, could create a Rite and a Council which could create Lodges, is to say that they could themselves create Lodges, and that all other Master Masons—except while affiliated with Lodges or Grand Lodges which forbid it—may do the same. If this be the law of Masonry, the Mexican Lodges may be non-clandestine; if it is not, few if any of them are.

"To revert one moment to the consequences which have resulted from the gross irregularities of the past, we would suggest to the friends of the gentlemen in Mexico who, they tell us, are brothers, that if the latter will insert in their obligation, and cause to be taken by all officers, some such clause as "I will not be present at or give my consent to, the making of a woman a Mason," it will go a long way towards restoring the confidence which they have forfeited. Otherwise, a long period of probation would seem to be the least they could expect."

In his review of Maine, Bro. Upton has a tilt with Bro. Drummond, not at all to the disadvantage of the former.

"With some of his views we are so unfortunate as to disagree. He holds that 'membership in the Catholic Church ought to prevent the admission of a candidate into Masonry'; for, because a 'law' of that church declares that a 'Catholic cannot be a Mason,' if a Catholic becomes a Mason, 'he is either a traitor to his church, or a traitor to Masonry, or both.' After the law lecture, which, under Washington, he reads Bro. Reed—who, by the way, is a lawyer himself—we marvel at the distinguished brother's idea of the legal definition of 'treason.' In fact, if we ever employed the weapon of sarcasm, with which Bro. Drummond sometimes strikes a young brother whom he cannot refute, we might seize the occasion to 'smile' an 'extensive smile' (vide *infra*). The best scholarship of the Catholic Church denies the jurisdiction of the church to make such a 'law' and treats such a 'law' as most Protestants would a similar one made by their churches, or as Bro. Drummond would a Grand Lodge 'law' 'absolving him from his obligation' and forbidding him to contribute to the relief of distressed worthy Master Masons, their widows and orphans. Moreover, at one time all Masons were Catholics; and in many lands

most Masons are to-day; Freemasonry will never desert them or brand them as 'traitors.'

"We do not concur in his belief 'that there is not a lodge in the world that was not *created* (italics his) by a Grand Lodge,' or believe that a Grand Lodge ever did more than *certify* by its charter to the regularity of lodges 'created' by a law older than Grand Lodges, and independent of them; and we have no sympathy with one of his latest innovations, namely, that there exists 'an inter-Grand Lodge binding upon all Grand Lodges.' This imaginary law, we find, is what he usually means when he cites 'the common law of Masonry' a most misleading use of words, for the terms 'common law' and 'immemorial law' have a definite, well settled meaning. In our opinion, the *only proper or legitimate use* of either of them in Masonry is to designate the body of law which existed before 1717. Readers will do well to *suspect sophistry* when they find them used in any other sense. We pointed out last year Brother DRUMMOND's tendency to apply the term 'old law' to some forty-year old custom, with the *apparent* intention that his reader should understand him to certify that the custom was 'immemorial'—that is, existed prior to 1717.

"We have much sympathy with his objection to initiating 'classes of candidates;' due, as he says, to an anxiety to make Masons instead of *teach Masonry*. But his position that it is of 'recent invention' cannot be upheld in the face of the testimony of the rubric of the MS. constitutions. Had the learned brother forgotten the words: '*Tunc unus ex senioribus teneat librum et ILLE VEL ILLI ponant manus supra librum et tunc preceptum debeat legi*,'—Then one of the Elders Lett him hold the Booke, that *either he or they* may put their hands upon the Booke, and they ought to read the precepts?"

Bro. Drummond has considerable to say about the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction, having at last got down off the fence where, we thought, we saw him perched last year, upon the side of the doctrine. He will be in at the death. As in all probability the writer will never review another copy of the Maine Proceedings; as Brother DRUMMOND still neglects to produce any evidence in favor of the legitimacy of his *protege*; and as we answered last year his argument as to *status*; we will not renew the discussion at this time, further than to say that Brother DRUMMOND makes two revelations which throw a surprising amount of light upon the question of the weight which his name ought to carry in this discussion. The first occurs in his review of a passage, which we quoted last year, in the Missouri Correspondence report:

"But one thing in this extract supprises us. He says the rejection means only this: 'We [the Lodge] do not want you, and do not intend to have you.' Such is not the case in Maine; the question here is: 'Is the candidate *qualified* for admission into the *fraternity* of Free and Accepted Masons.'"

"This is a remarkable disclosure: Because the brethren in Maine choose to take a vote *for which there is no warrant in masonic law*, they claim, forsooth, that the result should bind the Masonic world! They might as well—so far as any warrant in the immemorial usages of the craft is concerned—vote who shall be next president of the United States.

"The other revelation occurs in his review of Ohio, where—just after Grand Master Andrews, who *had* investigated the subject, had informed him that the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction 'never did

prevail in, or has been abandoned by, a majority of the Grand Lodges"—he calmly says :

"While our investigation has not been thorough and complete, we believe the fact to be that the doctrine was accepted by all the older Grand Lodges, save those organized before the Morgan excitement ; and that the opposite doctrine was established by the younger Grand Lodges !"

"Is it not a hardship that masons and lodges and Grand Lodges should be called upon year after year to explain their refusal to submit to the arrogant demands of this meddlesome innovation, when its advocates will not take the trouble to learn its history ?

"We would suggest that we ought to be let alone—at least until the most eminent champions which the dogma of perpetual jurisdiction can boast learn that the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, Scotland, and the rest of Europe, were not organized after the Morgan excitement.

"Two years ago—evidently weary of Brother Drummond's vague and elusive plea, 'the *old law*,' the cyclone cellar into which advocates of this doctrine retreat when asked to give names or dates, or cite page and volume—Brother Reed pointedly said :

"He refers to the subject as the '*old law* of perpetual jurisdiction.' Will he tell us how old this law is ?

"The response to this is characteristic of the evasions of every advocate of perpetual jurisdiction since first they began to attempt to force their innovation upon masons of other jurisdictions—of their evasion of every attempt to get one of them to cite an early instance of the existence of the 'rule' they advocate. First Brother Drummond asserts :

"To instance but two jurisdictions: It has always been the law in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

"But, doubtless because he knew that well informed masons would challenge the correctness of this assertion, he immediately adds :

"At least it has been the law 'from time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary' in those jurisdictions, and from that fact it is certain that it was always the law there.

"By leaving it uncertain whether he intends the clause 'in those jurisdictions' to modify the word 'law' or the word 'runs,' the subtle lawyer seems to seek to confuse, as well as to evade. As 'time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary' means in masonry, 'time prior to 1717,' to suppose he meant to say 'it has been the law in those jurisdictions from time whereof,' etc., would be to suppose he meant an absurdity. While if he merely asserts that 'in those jurisdictions' 'the memory of man runs not' to a time when it was not the law, the sentence cannot but be intended to be fool readers who are ignorant enough to suppose that the fact that a usage is more than one generation old makes it an immemorial usage.' Nor is that all ; construing his language either way, the conclusion at the end of our quotation does *not* follow. In a word, Brother Drummond has *not* answered Brother Reed's question ; and we challenge him or any one else to prove that perpetual jurisdiction 'has always been the law' in either Pennsylvania or Massachusetts. It cannot be done, because such was not the fact.

"But Bro. Drummond loves peace as much as we do and says :

"The more thought we have given to the matter the more strongly we are confirmed in the opinion that the adoption of a uniform time, by all Grand Lodges, during which the effect of a rejection or an

election is to be in force, leaving to each jurisdiction the responsibility of requiring 'due inquiry' to be made, in accordance with the old law, is the simplest and best solution of the whole question."

We heartily concur and would suggest as the period during which the effect of a rejection should continue, the period fixed by the "immemorial usage" of the fraternity, and everywhere recognized until comparatively recent times—about fifteen seconds.

Lodges, 101; members, 4,991; increase, 32.

Yancey C. Blalock (Walla Walla), G. M.

Thomas M. Reed (Olympia), G. S.

WEST VIRGINIA.

3rd Communication, Wheeling, Nov. 10, 1896.

John M. Collins, G. M.

Most of the lodges are in a fair working condition. Three new lodges are reported.

Considerable discussion took place as to the establishment of a Home, the majority favoring no action at present.

Bro. O. S. Long gave one of his interesting "talks," this time on The Symbolism of the Masonic Apron.

The following report was adopted :

"The committee upon Masonic jurisprudence beg leave to report as follows :

"That the communication of the Grand Lodge of Maine, submitted to this Grand Lodge by the representative of the Grand Lodge of Maine, upon the subject of uniform legislation in relation to the admission of rejected candidates, has been considered by your committee. In this jurisdiction no rejected candidate can apply for admission to any lodge within a year from the time of his rejection, and our general regulations provide that no lodge shall entertain the application of anyone who has been rejected in any other lodge, without the written consent of such lodge, and such consent must be unanimous.

"Your committee think it would be well for this Grand Lodge to agree to the adoption of the following resolution, suggested by said committee, viz.:

"*Resolved*, That the effect of a rejection in this jurisdiction shall be limited to five years; but this resolution not to take effect until the same be approved at the next annual communication, as provided by the by-laws.

"The plan of Masonic relief submitted by the representative of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin was laid before the committee on Masonic jurisprudence at the last session of this grand body, but no definite action was had as to it. It was suggested, however, that a brief statement of the proposition be printed with the proceedings, so that it might be considered by the brethren. In accordance with the suggestion, the Grand Secretary prepared and printed such a statement, which may be found upon pages 933 and 934 of the Proceedings.

" In this jurisdiction it has always been considered to be the duty of each lodge to provide for the necessities of its members, wheresoever dispersed, but it has never been obligatory on this grand body to reimburse any lodge in another jurisdiction which may have contributed to the relief of a worthy brother; and your committee deem it inexpedient now to so legislate."

The following resolutions were passed :

Resolved, That no application for a charter by any lodge under dispensation be granted by this Grand Lodge, unless accompanied by a certificate from the Grand Lecturer or Deputy Lecturer in whose district said lodge is situated, certifying that the stationed officers of said lodge are qualified to perform their several duties and are proficient in the work.

" *Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that no person should be elected to preside over any Masonic lodge in the State of West Virginia except he be able to confer the three several degrees and deliver the lectures pertaining to the same in an efficient manner."

In his notice of Canada for 1896, Bro. George W. Atkinson has the following remarks :

" As usual the District Deputy Grand Masters came up with complete reports. This Grand Lodge, in my opinion, has the best system of work by District Deputy Grand Masters of any other Grand Lodge that I know anything about, and it is my business to pry into the affairs of all of them. They make it a point to visit every one of the subordinate lodges and report upon them in the minutest manner of detail. Each of them submits a tabulated statement giving the condition of all the lodges in his district, showing everything that was done during the year, and giving the value of lodge property and the financial condition of each lodge. It would prove of great value to all the Grand Lodges of the country, if they would adopt the system of our Canadian brethren in matters of this kind.

" The Board of Benevolence reported relief granted to 313 applicants, amounting to \$9,830. This is a vast sum of money to expend for Masonic charity, and speaks volumes for the liberality of the Grand Lodge."

Lodges, 106 ; members, 5,867 ; increase, 285.

Braxton D. Gibson (Charlestown), G. M.

George W. Atkinson (Wheeling), G. S.

WISCONSIN.

52nd Communication, Milwaukee, June 9, 1896.

W. W. Perry, G. M.

A new lodge was opened at Wawatosa.

The Grand Secretary is very proud of his new offices.

Bro. William C. Swain, P. G. M., earnestly continues the advocacy of his proposition that each lodge should take care of its own members in distress wherever they may be. The

following is the conclusion of his report on the present position of the question :

"We are unable to report a general success, but are of opinion that the conviction of the necessity of some such plan of relief is growing, and that this or something similar will eventually be generally adopted. Nebraska has, with a slight modification, adopted our proposition, and Missouri and Montana and one or two other jurisdictions have it under consideration for future action.

We are of opinion that if the subject could be fairly brought before the Masonic fraternity throughout the country, systematic methods would meet with general approval; but it seems almost impossible to place it before even the body of a Grand Lodge. To illustrate why this is difficult, we will give our experience with the neighboring jurisdiction of Illinois, in which some such regulation seems doubly necessary, from the fact that some portion of its lodges refuse to care for the stranger within their gates, unless expenses are guaranteed, while others refuse to care for their own members in distress abroad. The chairman of your committee attended the last session of its Grand Lodge for the purpose of seeing that the matter was properly brought before them. He found that the Grand Master, in his address, had briefly alluded, adversely, to our circular without even stating what the proposition was. The allusion was referred to the committee on jurisprudence, which had already prepared, but not presented, their report adversely. After urgent solicitation your chairman was reluctantly granted a hearing before the committee, and ascertained that not a member of it had seen the circular or the proposition upon which they were reporting. And the Grand Lodge, when it voted to sustain the adverse report, knew no more upon what they were voting than did the committee when it prepared it. Under such circumstances it seems impossible to get the matter properly before Grand Lodges, unless it is done by sending circulars to each subordinate lodge throughout the country, which your committee does not deem practicable.

There seems to be a delusion in the minds of many leading Masons that the proposition is an innovation in the body of Masonry, and most of those who have opposed it have confined themselves to technical objections, entirely overlooking the fact, expressly stated in our first circular, that recognizing an evil which existed, we were not so strenuous for our own proposition that we did not believe it could be improved, and that we invited suggestions for something better.

"The proposition having now been adopted by the three states of Wisconsin, California and Nebraska, a compact exists between them in accordance therewith. Your committee are of opinion that nothing further can be done at present, trusting to time and observation of beneficial results to bring in others.

"Nebraska, in adopting the proposition, struck out the clause devolving the duty of relief upon the Grand Lodge, in case of inability of the subordinate; but as by looking through her proceedings, we notice that the Grand Lodge does come to the relief of its subordinates in such cases, we do not consider the omission material."

A committee was appointed to codify the laws.

The attendance at the Grand Lecturer's 20 Schools of Instruction was unusually large.

The report on Correspondence is not to be published until it has been examined and approved by the Grand Lodge.

Lodges, 235 ; members, 16,408 ; increase, 407.

Aldro Jenks (Dodgeville), G. M.

John W. Laflin (Milwaukee), G. S.

WYOMING.

22nd Communication, Sheridan, Sept. 8, 1896.

Fenimore Chatterton, G. M.

The following amended by-law was adopted :

" Sec. 89. It shall be and is hereby made the imperative duty of lodges in this jurisdiction to restrain as far as possible the crime of intemperance ; and hereafter no Subordinate Lodge shall admit by initiation or affiliation any person engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicants. Engaging in such business hereafter by any brother shall be considered a Masonic offense, and if after trial he be found guilty of the charges he shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may require ; and for the faithful performance of this duty each lodge shall be held accountable to the Grand Lodge. Provided, That the above provisions shall not be deemed to apply to persons who are regularly engaged in the business of druggist, and inn keepers, nor to dealers in liquors used exclusively in the arts and sciences."

The Grand Secretary condenses his report on Correspondence to 58 pages. Canada for 1895 has a good notice.

Lodges, 15 ; members, 1,023 ; increase, 38.

DeForest Richards (Douglas), G. M.

William L. Kuykendall (Saratoga), G. S.

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

Alabama	1896	Nevada	1896
Arizona	1896	New Brunswick	1896
Arkansas	1896	New Hampshire	1896
British Columbia	1896	New Jersey	1897
California	1896	New Mexico	1896
Colorado	1896	New South Wales	1896
Connecticut	1897	New York	1896
Delaware	1896	New Zealand	1896
District of Columbia ..	1896	North Carolina	1897
Florida	1897	North Dakota	1896
Georgia	1896	Nova Scotia	1896
Idaho	1896	Ohio	1896
Illinois	1896	Oklahoma	1896
Indiana	1896	Oregon	1896
Indian Territory	1896	Pennsylvania	1896
Iowa	1896	Prince Edward Island ..	1896
Kansas	1897	Quebec	1897
Kentucky	1896	Rhode Island	1896
Louisiana	1897	South Carolina	1896
Maine	1896	South Dakota	1896
Manitoba	1896	Tennessee	1897
Maryland	1896	Texas	1896
Massachusetts	1896	Utah	1897
Michigan	1897	Vermont	1896
Minnesota	1897	Virginia	1896
Mississippi	1897	Washington	1896
Missouri	1896	West Virginia	1896
Montana	1896	Wisconsin	1896
Nebraska	1896	Wyoming	1896

“ By Masons’ Art th’ aspiring dome
 On stately columns shall arise,
 All climates are their native home,
 Their godlike actions reach the skies.
 Heroes and kings revere their name,
 While poets sing their lasting fame.

Great, noble, gen’rous, good and brave,
 All virtues they must justly claim,
 Their deeds shall live beyond the grave,
 And those unborn their praise proclaim,
 Time shall their glorious acts enroll,
 While love and friendship charm the soul.”

This report contains a review of all the Grand Lodges on the North American continent, 58 in number, and the Grand Lodges of New South Wales and New Zealand.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

HENRY ROBERTSON, *Chairman*.
 Collingwood, Ontario, June 15, 1897.

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